Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-011
Tuesday
19 January 1988

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Area Presidents Arrive for San Jose Summit

Ortega Arrives

PA151532 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1458 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Statement to journalists by Manuel Espinoza Enriquez, press director for the Nicaraguan Ministry of the Presidency, at the Juan Santamaria Airport in San Jose, Costa Rica—live]

[Text] Good morning dear colleagues and Costa Rican and foreign journalists who are covering this third summit of Central American presidents, Esquipulas III.

The Nicaraguan delegation is pleased to announce that President Daniel Ortega Saavedra is already in Costa Rica. He is now at the Central American Institute of Business Administration, INCAE.

We will be happy to arrange a news conference with President Ortega in the next few hours at the INCAE facilities.

President Ortega is already in Costa Rica. He is here in San Jose. Thank you.

Duarte Arrival Statement

PA151959 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1236 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Statement by Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte upon arrival at the Juan Santamaria International Airport in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 14 January—recorded]

[Text] I have come to San Jose to keep a promise I made on 7 October. On 7 October the five Central American presidents ratified the Esquipulas II agreements. I have come here to inform the presidents that I have tried to abide by the agreements to the best of my ability and without restrictions. I have come here to ask the presidents if they feel I have abided by these agreements.

I feel I must also keep another promise I made on 7 October in front of the presidents and the press. On that day I promised that I would try to abide by the agreements and that I would also make sure that all the presidents kept the promise they made when they signed the document. I said that if I felt one of us was not abiding by the agreements, I would say so. I said I would be the first to say whether or not the agreements had been respected. I am aware of my responsibility, I am willing to keep my promise, and I am willing to tell the truth.

I told the Salvadoran reporters today that I am not going to cover up for anyone; I am going to speak up and say who has and has not respected the agreements. I said I would demand that we all respect the agreements we made.

I am here to defend Esquipulas II because that document represents a real peace document. I am here to defend Esquipulas II because I believe these commitments were signed by men of honor, and as men of honor we must keep our words. I am here to defend Esquipulas II because I believe the commitments we accepted are good for our countries, for our people, for democracy, and for the process of freedom of our peoples.

I am here to defend Esquipulas II because the plan cannot be held responsible for something man could not do. I will defend the principle of Esquipulas II. Esquipulas II is good and must continue. I am here to defend the principle of Esquipulas II and the fulfillment of the commitments made. I am determined to do this. I have clearly stated that I will not accept excuses for nonfulfillment.

I could have used the fact that Nicaragua, Cuba, and Puerto Rico are supporting the FMLN and attacking our sovereignty as an excuse for not granting an amnesty in El Slavador. I could have said that El Salvador did not respect the freedom and democracy clause because it was not possible in a state of war. I did not say this, because the Esquipulas II document does not tie the actions of the five presidents to outside forces. We promised to abide by the agreements. No one forced us to sign them. We did not base our actions on our laws. All we did was promise, and we are going to keep our promise.

Gentlemen, as President Arias said when he presented the peace plan, the time has come. Today I say that zero hour has come. As of this moment we must know whether there will be democracy in Nicaragua and whether we will have peace in Central America. We will now have to determine whether we have kept our promises. I promised to tell the truth, and I will tell the truth. I told the truth this morning during a news conference in El Salvador. I have told you the truth, and tomorrow when I stand before the presidents, I will also tell the truth.

Said Bringing CDN Note

PA161327 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2223 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—President Jose Napoleon Duarte will take to the Central American presidential summit a document from the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board (CDN) that notes the nonfulfillment of the Esquipulas II agreement by the Nicaraguan Government, it was reported here today.

CDN Vice President Julio Baltodano said today that Duarte will personally deliver the document to his colleagues, who are meeting tomorrow in San Jose to evaluate the regional situation 150 days after the Guatemala peace plan was signed in Guatemala.

Baltodano, who will travel today to Costa Rica to meet with the "contra" leadership, explained that the document was signed by 14 opposition parties.

The opposition leader said the Nicaraguan Government has not fulfilled the peace agreements by not decreeing a broad political amnesty, by restricting freedom of expression, by maintaining the state of emergency, and by not creating an Electoral Tribunal.

Duarte met last Wednesday with Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) and CDN leaders, it was officially reported.

The Salvadoran president spoke behind "closed doors" in his office with Azucena Ferrey and Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, "contra" leaders, in addition to other CDN leaders.

Cerezo Arrives

PA151655 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo has arrived in Costa Rica. He will not be holding a news conference at the airport because of a lack of time. Immediately following the protocol ceremony, he will go directly to the INCAE [Central American Institute of Business Administration], where the Central American presidents' summit will be held.

President Arias Opens C.A. Presidential Summit

PA152142 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1803 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Speech by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias at the opening of the Central American presidential summit at the Central American Institute of Business Administration in San Jose, Costa Rica—live]

[Text] Messrs Presidents, dear friends.

I wish to welcome you to Costa Rica. Our nation is proud to receive such distinguished guests to discuss peace and to find a way to halt wars. Our nation is proud when our country hosts peaceful negotiations to find solutions to the conflicts, regardless of how dramatic they may be. Everytime we meet many people in the entire world seem to think we will not reach agreements. Many think the disagreements separating us will prevail over the common objectives we intend to accomplish together. Thus far, the premonitions of defeat for our dialogue have not come true. I have confidence such premonitions will turn out to be false today, on this morning of freedom, peace and democracy we want to have in our little Central America.

Every time we meet, many people tell us what we should do and what we should not do. Many would like to have their interest put above the interest of the Central American nations. Such pressures never prevailed in our dialogues or agreements whenever we have met. Perhaps because we, as presidents, have no right to betray a mandate demanding democracy and peace, and also freedom.

I am confident that once again our dialogue will be faithful to our people, faithful to freedom, and justice. Every time we meet, the hearts of mothers and youngsters are distressed because they fear our failure could maintain or even increase the war. Every time we meet, there is a new hope, and we squeeze the hearts of youngsters and elderly people, who are tired of seeing so many deaths and so much hatred. They still expect our meetings to result in political decisions that will take us closer to a longer lasting peace. Up to now, our dialogue has not increased anguish or let down hopes. I trust this occasion will do likewise. Welcome, presidents, to this land of peace.

Here, once again, we will never confuse a heated debate with rancor. Here, once again, any mistakes that are made will mark the way for corrections. Here, once again, is the flame that was lit in Esquipulas. Here, in our hands, is the opportunity for working for liberty, peace, justice, and democracy. Here, in our hands, are the hopes of peoples who—for many years, by far too many years—are asking for freedom in order to emerge from poverty, and for leaving oppression and fear behind forever.

Those who encourage violence, those who fill the newspapers with words of hatred are never the ones who die in the struggle on the battlefields. Those who are desperately trying to destroy the peace efforts are never the mothers who see their sons go to war. We have not met to listen to the voices of hatred and tragedy. Those who throw stones and hide their hands are always in the minority that hides behind dogmatism. Let us not lose our faith in the paths of peace, my dear friends. They will not frighten us and push us to share their hatred. The majority of all our people does not want war.

Today, we meet to evaluate how far we have kept our word. Today we meet to amend and not to condemn. Today we meet in order to make progress for peace and not to consolidate war. Today we meet in order to courageously confront the obstacles that have arisen along the path of Central American peace.

Our problems will never be solved through armed victories or defeats. If there is no democracy in Central America, there will not be a single winner along the path of war, poverty will not be eliminated, and there will be no liberty.

My dear friends: Let us work now. There is no time to lose. If we are not capable of [words indistinct] the agreements that the peoples are demanding, we will have lost much and gained nothing. Let us not allow today's hesitations to bring about our shame and humiliate our peoples tomorrow. Our discussions will renew either

hopes or the possibility of sorrow and grief. I beg God to enlighten us; may reason prevail, may tolerance prevail. Let us progress along the path of peace we are committed to build. There is no room or time for hatred to continue, for wars to continue along our path. There is no room or time to fear liberty. Thank you. [applause]

Tinoco on Proceedings

PA160522 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0347 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Interview with Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco by unidentified reporter in San Jose Costa Rica, at ICAE, site of the Central American presidential summit—live]

[Text] [Tinoco] The presidents have met for 4 or 5 hours. They have exchanged views on the Central American situation. Also, they met with the area foreign ministers to receive the report of the International Verification and Follow-up Commission, CIVS. This meeting will bear fruit despite U.S. pressure [words indistinct].

[Question] Rumors had it that the subject of deadlines had stalled the talks.

[Tinoco] As far as I know, this is not really the problem. I think that, more than a problem of deadlines, what is being discussed here is a political problem, how the Central American people can build their (?democracy) in the presence of foreign factors such as the policy of the U.S. Administration, which constitutes an obstacle to these efforts. If it has been difficult for Nicaragua to comply with the agreement, it is because of the Reagan government's aggression.

The Hondurans [words indistinct] 30 days because of this same policy. Truly, U.S. policy constitutes an obstacle, not only for Nicaragua, but for all of Central America. I think this is really what is being discussed.

[Question] Also the use of territories to attack other countries?

[Tinoco] Of course. There is the problem of the use of the territories, the activities of unconventional groups, democratization, amnesty, and so forth. All of these issues are being discussed.

[Question] The presidents have agreed on Nicaragua's responsibility [words indistinct]. The discussion stands a better chance than [words indistinct].

[Tinoco] I have this information because I have attended this meeting today. What is reported to the press, possibly about international duties and pressures, is one thing, and what the presidents discuss when they sit down and talk face to face sincerely, making up their minds as to what is to be done with the Central American situation, in which they have to consider the CIA and thousands of people of all the peoples and countries of this region—that is another thing altogether. I feel the (?meeting) is being constructive. Naturally, the meeting's first part is always more difficult regardless of the nature of discussion. As we meet this time there is a more open climate.

[Question] [Words indistinct]

[Tinoco] In truth, only the presidents can tell what they will decide. I have no doubt, however, that, despite pressures on the Central American presidents, they have clearly seen their responsibility for keeping the spirit of peace alive.

[Question] What is the spirit of [words indistinct]?

[Tinoco] [Words indistinct] provided it is constructive.

[Question] Will there be any final statement tomorrow?

[Tinoco] There will surely be a final statement, at about 1000 local time. [words indistinct].

Arias on Contra-Managua Talks

PA161837 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1732 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] There is an atmosphere of pessimism at INCAE [Central American Institute of Business Administration] in the face of the possible failure of not only the summit but also the peace plan. The deadlines have expired, and the commitments have not been fulfilled. Azcona and Duarte said we have reached zero hour.

The Central American presidents continue meeting at INCAE. This morning, the ambassadors who arrived at INCAE were told to go back because there would not be any closing ceremony.

President Arias confirmed no agreements have been reached despite lengthy discussions. The following is what Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez told newsmen a few minutes before the beginning of the second session of the Central American summit at INCAE:

[Begin Arias recording] I am not losing hope. I am an eternal optimist. I believe we all have a responsibility now. Even if no sanctions will actually be applied if we do not reach an agreement, the implicit sanction according to the plan we signed in Guatemala is that the war will continue. If war continues, our children and future generations of Central Americans will not forgive us for this lack of willingness and effort, for this lack of ability to meet our commitments, and for not obtaining the peace we cherish.

However, we still have some more discussions to hold. Yesterday, I adjourned the meetings so we could think it over during the night, so each president could consult his advisors and the members of his delegation.

We must all see very clearly that if we do not reach important agreements that can be put into effect shortly, the war will continue, with its bloodshed and deaths. We must demonstrate with our intelligence and efforts the importance of our being here. Thus, we must be capable of reaching important agreements. If there are disagreements, we still have time. If there is a willingness, we can make progress within the next few weeks: For example, in renegotiations for a cease-fire, I am offering my country.

We should have done this months ago. We could come here on Saturday—as we did today—and begin those talks in San Jose on a Monday, if we wanted to do it, face-to-face with the Nicaraguan Resistance—the contras—and with members of the EPS. I am only giving you an example. We could do much more, and then make some substantial progress toward our goals. [end recording]

Summit Presidents Issue Joint Declaration

PA170157 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish
2259 GMT 16 Jan 88

["Text" of joint declaration signed by the presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua at the Central American Institute of Business Administration in San Jose, Costa Rica; read by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias—live]

[Text] The presidents have summed up the conclusions of the report made by the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission [CIVS], which was prepared in accordance with provision 11 of the Esquipulas II agreement, with reservations noted by some of them.

The presidents recognize the effort and arduous work of the commission, and express their appreciation for its dedication and efforts to contribute to the fulfillment of the Esquipulas II accords.

The presidents charge the Executive Commission of Esquipulas II with studying the general report after receiving it and with making the pertinent recommendations.

The presidents reiterate the historic value and importance of the Esquipulas II accords, whose concept and spirit they recognize as vital to securing the democratization and peace of the region.

Since all of the Esquipulas II commitments have not been entirely fulfilled, the presidents commit themselves to satisfying unconditional, unilateral obligations that bind the governments to the total and inexcusable fulfillment of the agreements. Among these are dialogue, the cease-fire negotiations, a general amnesty, and, above all, democratization.

This necessarily entails the lifting of the state of emergency, total freedom of the press, political pluralism, and the dismantling of special tribunals. The commitments reported as not having been met by the governments must be immediately fulfilled in a public and obvious manner.

Complying with the Esquipulas II agreement includes commitments whose fulfillment by the governments is the subject of a necessary and specific verification. This is particularly true in the case of ending aid to insurgent groups, the nonuse of territory to support these groups, and the effective freedom of the electoral processes, which must be verified by the National Reconciliation Commission of each country. Special importance is given to the election of the Central American Parliament as an indispensable element for securing a stable, lasting peace in the region.

The Executive Commission, which is composed of the Central American foreign ministers, will have the principal task of verifying, controlling, and following up on all commitments in the Guatemala document and in the present declaration. Because of this, it will require the cooperation of states in and outside the region, and of organizations renowned for impartiality and technical capabilities that have expressed their desire to participate in the Central American peace process.

Also, the fulfillment of Esquipulas II implies a follow-up of obligations that include an already established strategy of arms limitation and of agreements on security and disarmament.

We thank the international community for their political and financial support to promote regional projects aiming to secure the socioeconomic development of Central America as an objective directly linked to the task of securing, preserving, and consolidating peace. This is because the real causes of this conflict are social and economic. Peace thus cannot be attained without development.

The presidents, aware of their historic responsibility to their people, reiterate their firm desire to meet their commitments as expressed—which they consider unrenounceable and unalterable—and pledge to fulfill the pending commitments immediately and without reluctance. They are aware that it will be their peoples and the international community who will judge the fulfillment of the commitments made in good faith.

We sign this declaration thanking the Costa Rican people and President Oscar Arias Sanchez for their hospitality, which provided us with the adequate framework for holding this meeting.

Costa Rica's Arias Gives News Conferences

Views Summit Groundwork

PA170303 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1637 GMT 14 Jan 88

[News conference by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez with foreign reporters at the Presidential Palace in San Jose—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [William Roy, of Nicaragua] Good morning, Mr President. Several news media have reported that the U.S. Government has been pressuring various Central American governments so they will, in turn, exert pressure on the Sandinist government. I would like to know if you have been pressured by the U.S. Government, and—if so—what is your stand, considering that the United States is attacking Nicaragua?

[Arias] What did you say, considering what?

[Roy] What is your stand, considering that the United States is attacking Nicaragua?

[Arias] Well, I must say, distinguished newsman, that at no time have I been pressured by anyone to act one way or another. I do not take action based on pressure, but I instead do what my conscience tells me. I act according to what I believe are the feelings of the vast majority of the Costa Rican people. This is because I want to be loyal to the mandate given to me by the people when they expressed their trust in me and elected me president in February 1986.

As for domestic issues—economic policy and social policy—as well as for international issues—everything that has to do with the Central American crisis—I have always acted according to what my conscience tells me, and according to what I feel is in line with my country's best interests. That is what regulates my conduct, which is always determined by my doing what is best for Costa Rica and for the 2.8 million Costa Ricans who are enjoying our fatherland, our peace, our democracy, and our freedom. Thus, what I do is merely to interpret the will of the Costa Rican people.

I feel there should be coordination between what is said and what is done. I feel that the way to solve the Central American conflicts is through negotiations. That is why you will never find me supporting those who believe war is the best answer.

[Guillermo Descalzi, of UNIVISION] Good morning, Mr President. As a preamble to your answer to the Nicaraguan journalist, I too must say—dear fellow journalist—that I have never been the victim of pressure by anyone. The world has been reporting the visit to the region by [U.S.] General Colin Powell. It is said that he has told the [Central American] presidents—including you—that if this meeting results in any moral obligation for the United States to cut aid to the contras, then all of you would be economically affected. Is it true or false that you met with General Powell? [sentence as heard]

[Arias] That is absolutely false, and you can ask my Central American colleagues who had the opportunity to meet with Mr Powell. His visit was a routine visit, just like the past visits by Mr Habib and Mr Busby; yesterday, as a matter of fact. In the same way, there are visits by congressmen and senators to Central America. They come to visit not four, but five countries.

During those meetings, we generally exchange views and talk to understand each other better. We express our views, and then discover what we agree and disagree on. I must say that I had not met Mr Powell before, and I found him to be a very respectful, dicreet, and decent person. I held a very cordial conversation with him. He gave me the opportunity to express my views and the Costa Rican proposal for solving Central America's problems. At no time were we told that there might be any reprisals against our countries if we acted according to our own principles. Thus, that report is entirely unfounded. [passage omitted]

[Soviet television reporter] Distinguished Mr President, you have already given sufficient details on the recent case of the three Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary leaders. I would like to ask you one last question. Does this measure refer to only these three leaders and the contra groups or other armed groups which might be active within Costa Rican territory? In this case, what could you do—as president or as a Central American—so Costa Rican territory would not be used by these armed groups?

[Arias] I have reiterated to the appropriate authorities that they must evict from national territory all foreigners who are engaged in political activities which encourage violence and war. In my country, 10 percent of the population is foreign, of whom over half are Nicaraguans. Some of them might be Sandinist supporters, but the majority of them oppose the Managua regime. They can live here with us, so long as they respect our neutrality. As long as I am president, I will not jeopardize this neutrality.

In other words, Costa Rica will not become involved in the warlike conflict of Central America and it will respect the law. Costa Rica will not become involved in the Central American conflicts by being tolerant or negligent of those who abuse political asylum and our hospitality and want to use our territory for warlike actions.

Therefore, although we do not have enough Civil and Rural Guards, the day we catch one of these foreigners red-handed, disrespecting the Costa Rican Government's wishes, we will kick him out of our country in 24 hours. This is specified in a letter I wrote and it is another appeal to respect what I announced on 8 May

1986 when I took office. I said that anyone who wants to live here must respect our laws and the policies outlined by my administration. If anyone uses our territory to support armed actions, if anyone uses our territory convinced that war is the solution to the conflicts of our brother countries, then they are not compatible with the Costa Rican peace plan.

As I said earlier, it is not that we—the government authorities—do not respect the right of asylum. They are the ones who are violating the right of asylum. They are not abiding by the sacred right that Costa Rica has offered the entire world for many generations: Those who are persecuted for their political ideas can live with us. However, if they want to live with us, I think it is elementary to follow these rules applied throughout the world. They must respect the wishes of the government that has said: Let us achieve peace through peaceful means and not through armed actions. [passage omitted]

Discusses Results of Summit

PA181440 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0054 GMT 17 Jan 88

[News conference by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias following the conclusion of the Central American presidential summit; held at the Central American Institute of Business Administration in San Jose, Costa Rica—live]

[Text] [Arias] Good evening, dear newsmen friends. I am here with you at the end of a long day. I imagine you are tired. In a few words, I want to express the great satisfaction I feel, as a democrat, that once again, after this meeting, Central America is showing the world that dialogue never fails. [Words indistinct]. We have once again proven that dialogue is the ideal instrument for solving problems, ironing out differences, and settling conflicts that divide the peoples.

Costa Rica believes a lasting peace in the region cannot be attained without democracy. Thus, we have stressed the importance of completing the peace plan for Central America that was signed in Guatemala City on 7 August.

The future of this peace depends on the will each of us has to reach this agreement we have made today, and thus honor the signatures we placed on that memorable date.

Today, we once again proved that we must not lose hope. We have to keep alive the spirit we obtained in Esquipulas in May 1986. We must not allow ourselves to have a defeatist attitude or become skeptical or negative. There is always hope. If we have the will, we could soon give to Central America, to 27 million human beings, a gift they have been waiting for for many years: the peace they deserve.

Peace, as we all know, is not easy to achieve. The path to it is full of obstacles. There are always many obstacles to peace. We see them every day in the different conflicts that exist today: in Angola, in the Middle East, in Afghanistan, in the Persian Gulf, and in Central America.

It is easy to start a war. It is a decision made by a single person. However, peace requires the will of many people. It needs many efforts and many people in many places of the world.

Consequently, the task is not that easy. However, at the end of this day, I feel optimistic, because the flame we lit in Esquipulas is still burning.

I am at your service in the event you may want to ask any questions.

[Reporter] In view of the International Verification Commission's conclusion of its task and that there has been [words indistinct], because of what we heard from the various presidents about the contents of that report, what will the future relations be between the Executive Commission and the meeting of presidents with the other challengers [impugnantes] of this commission, particularly the Contadora Group? In addition, there is the Contadora Security Council, which takes care of the security problems regarding bases, maneuvers, and foreign advisers. What will the role or task be of the Contadora Security Council. Thank you.

[Arias] I imagine you asked my other colleagues of the area the same question. At least, I had the opportunity to listen to the response President Cerezo gave to the same question. However, in an effort not to repeat the same thing, because of the short time we have, I support what he said. I think the commission has done a job we must all be thankful for, because it was hard work. I also think it has been very positive to be judged from the outside, always with the impartiality that one on the outside can have.

We analyzed the document and the conclusions reached by this commission and, as the lady reporter said, some of the governments had some reservations about these conclusions. There were some objections about which I think you know, because the various foreign ministries of other Central American countries disclosed them to the public.

We do not have any objections. I think that what we decided in these meetings was already decided long time ago: It is for the Central Americans to take over this process, because no one can resolve the problems of Central America better than the Central Americans themselves.

We thank the other Latin American countries, the United Nations, and the OAS for the great effort they have made and the work they did to draft this document.

They must know that at any moment, and whenever necessary—and I think it will be frequent—we will knock on their doors to request their help, when we need that help. However, in sum, I think the Central Americans must take the peace process in our own hands, and this is what we want to do.

[Reporter] Do you think that with the new commitments announced by Nicaragua today, it is complying with the Esquipulas plan? If this is so, would you consider issuing a call to the U.S. Congress to reject the contra aid in February?

[Arias] As you know, since I took office, I have been committed to solving the problems that have led to war in Central America, through negotiations, dialogue, diplomatic channels, and never through war. This is not new to anyone. In fact, because I began these efforts, the entire world recognized this after we signed the Guatemala agreements and more recently when our people, represented by their president, received the Nobel Peace Prize.

I told President Ortega that the future of the aid to the Nicaraguan contras was in his hands. I told him that 150 days after we signed the Guatemala peace plan, not all of us are fully satisfied with what we achieved. We always seem to leave for the end what we could have done yesterday. The truth is that each hour that goes by without any action is an hour of Central American [words indistinct] for this reason, I have turned very impatient with the past, and I have shared that impatience with you.

I have always told the press that I cannot feel totally pleased knowing that we left for last decisions that could have been made a long time ago and could have saved many Central American youths. I repeat to you what I told President Ortega: The future path of the war in Central America, and more specifically, the approval of huge aid to the Nicaraguan contras, is in the hands of the Managua government.

[Reporter] Mr President, in the first part of my question I asked you if in your opinion the Guatemala agreements have been complied with by Nicaragua's fulfilling the commitments announced today.

[Arias] Not completely. I believe there are many other things not necessarily covered by the announcements made by President Ortega. We all know that. I would refer you to the [words indistint] of the Esquipulas agreements, to the (?Esquipulas) peace plan.

[Moderator] Next is [name indistinct] from London's THE GUARDIAN.

[Reporter] I have two questions. First: Nicaragua, or the Nicaraguan Government is taking steps to comply with the Esquipulas agreements; however, the Honduran president has said nothing regarding the [words indistinct] of irregular forces in its territory. [words indistinct]. Do you think that the presidents will be satisfied with the way Honduras is [words indistinct] the process? My second question is: The document issued today states that the Esquipulas process is ending, and four presidents have told Nicaragua or President Ortega [words indistinct] comply with the process that is being completed.

[Arias] I am not sure if I have interpreted your question right? Anyway, what we are telling the world today after this lengthy meeting we have had—very frank and sincere talks, sometimes [words indistinct] but always friendly—is that the peace process in Central America is not dead, that it is not ending, if that is what you said. On the contrary, it is alive. It is alive. It is a hope that has not vanished. The flame we began in Esquipulas will not be extinguished; it will resist the winds trying to put it out. [words indistinct] exactly the opposite to what I have interpreted your question to be. We reaffirmed our conviction that dialogue, negotiation, are the adequate instruments Central America wants to use to resolve the conflicts in Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala. I believe that is clear.

[Reporter] What about Honduras?

[Arias] Regarding Honduras, I just want to tell you that what the five presidents have signed, this declaration is an obligation for all of us. This declaration is not against anyone. It is only in favor of peace and democracy, and demands compliance from the five presidents. Therefore, it should not be seen as an attempt to pressure a specific country or government. No. Regardless of who the judge is, even if the presidents ourselves act as judges, if we put our hand over our hearts, we must admit that not all of us have done things as we should have, and that there are still important steps to be taken. I believe that what we have done today is [word indistinct] and that once again we have committed ourselves; we have (?promised) to comply with the spirit and letter of Esquipulas II.

[Moderator] Two questions, [name indistinct] from Telenoticias.

[Reporter] Are no new meetings planned? You have always said that peace should not be postponed. Are no new presidential summits or foreign ministers' meetings planned? That was the first question, and the second is whether the conditioning of Nicaragua was foreseen when the five heads of state held talks. Nicaragua says there will be amnesty if certain conditions are met. There have been direct talks, but I was not included, Ortega said about those talks. We would like to know what conditioning was planned.

[Arias] The fact that no technical groups, foreign ministers, or presidents' meetings have been scheduled does not mean we are not going to ever meet again—the

foreign ministers, the technical groups, or the presidents. That is a misinterpretation of the San Jose Declaration that we have just shown you. I believe that dialogue is normal in modern life. Who can be afraid to talk? Evidently what we did today was reaffirm that there is nothing which cannot be negotiated, discussed, or talked about; that we can sit down at a table and be frank with each other, work out differences, and find agreements. That is what we did yesterday and this morning.

We will certainly meet again. We have not set dates or determined a place. However, we believe the contemporary problems, as the two superpowers have demonstrated...[changes thought] When the newspapers reported on the Reagan-Gorbachev meeting, I only deplored the fact that so much time had passed and that they had not met sooner. Today, I am pleased because they met again and promised to meet again during this year. Therefore, here also, after we signed the Guatemala agreement, a new atmosphere was created, superseding the old one.

We could deplore the fact we have not made much progress, but I believe if we strike a balance sheet, a just equilibrium, make a correct interpretation of what has transpired in the last few months, we would conclude that today's climate in Central America is radically different from what existed a few months ago. We will continue talking.

[Reporter] Two of your colleagues have said in previous news conferences that today's declaration transfers the responsibility to the United States and the U.S. Congress. Do you see a paradox [words indistinct] spirit of Esquipulas [words indistinct]?

[Arias] The responsibility of supplying aid to the contras is not being passed on to anyone. This has been in the hands of the U.S. Congress all along. [Words indistinct]. It is a sovereign congress and a sovereign nation. It is a decision every congressman and senator has to take. No one is passing on responsibilities (?to an alien body). This responsibility has always been in the hands of the U.S. representatives in the House and the Senate.

Arias, Ortega Engage in 'Televised Debate'

PA151522 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0231 GMT 15 Jan 88

["Audio portion" of 14 January "televised debate" between Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega in Managua and Costa Rican President Oscar Arias in San Jose" carried by San Jose Television Channel 19; moderated by Antonio Alexander Garcia; broadcast in progress—live or recorded]

[Text] [Arias] I only regret that the will that existed to reach an agreement has not existed to implement it. Nonetheless, there is a new climate in Central America and there have been important accomplishments. However, this is not enough. If we analyze the situation we find many positive things, but since Central American youth are dying every day on the battlefields of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua, I believe we could have done much more.

[Garcia] Tomorrow the Central American presidents will meet in Costa Rica. I have come to Managua to interview the controversial president of our neighboring nation, Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra.

Good evening, Don Daniel. The Central American presidents will meet tomorrow in Costa Rica. It has been said that many aspects of the Esquipulas II agreement have not been fulfilled. Perhaps then the peacekeeping process for Central America within the Esquipulas II framework faces the same risks encountered by the Contadora Group. Do you believe the plan has failed thus far?

[Ortega] Thank you for the opportunity to address the people of Costa Rica. I want to convey the greetings of the Nicaraguan people to the Costa Rican people. Regarding the implementation of the Esquipulas peace plan, we fear it is being dragged out. We believe it is important to work with more determination so the agreement will be implemented within the established time frame, and if deemed necessary, within a shorter time frame. Because, of course, what is sought is to avoid the situation from being dragged out indefinitely, shortening the war [words indistinct] for Nicaragua. Because [words indistinct] continues to be U.S. policy. Because while we are taking steps toward peace, while Nicaragua is fulfilling the requisites for peace, the United States is not honoring the agreement, not respecting the agreement, yet it continues to allocate millions for the war against Nicaragua.

There is a contradiction, however, between what Nicaragua is doing and what the United States is doing by not respecting the agreement. Therefore, greater effort is needed so the plan will be complied with 100 percent, so it will be respected [words indistinct] launching of mercenaries. Now, to what extent has each of the Central American countries fulfilled the agreements? I do not want to comment on that. Some Central American countries have commented, but I do not think it behooves them to do so.

[Garcia] Many of the countries that signed the agreement have not been able to fulfill most of the Esquipulas II commitments. Perhaps because of the situation it faces Nicaragua is more [word indistinct]. Personally, do you believe in the Nicaraguan process, do you trust in Daniel Ortega's promises?

[Arias] I hope that peace will be secured, and because of my great responsibilities I cannot answer the question you have asked with a yes or no. I have no reason to doubt the good faith of my colleagues, the Central American presidents. However, it is difficult for many of

them to comply with the agreements. [words indistinct] and I believe that many of these countries, although their presidents want to accomplish more, face obstacles that are difficult to overcome.

In the specific case of Nicaragua, I really would have liked it to have achieved more. If I had been in President Ortega's shoes, seeing how things developed day-to-day on both sides, I would have shown more flexibility, more consistency; I would have been willing to yield more, to have been less dogmatic, regardless of the pressure by the FSLN, which brought Ortega to power. However, I am not the one to pass judgment on why he has not shown this flexibility and taken the position I would have liked the Nicaraguan Government to have taken. For example, there has been no cease-fire reached in Nicaragua, or in El Salvador, or in Guatemala. But obviously, President Duarte has done much more than Ortega with regard to a cease-fire.

President Duarte was willing to negotiate directly with the Salvadoran guerrillas. This has not been the case with Nicaragua. I view as a certain intransigence the fact that the meetings have not been able to be held in Central America and that Cardinal Obando y Bravo was forced to travel to the Dominican Republic. Ortega may have his justifications, his reasons. I respect them, but if I had been in his shoes I would have made a greater effort, because Nicaraguan youth are dying every day. I would have been more flexible, because the one who has more to gain by securing a cease-fire, in ending the war, is, in fact, President Ortega.

[Ortega] The truth is that it is one thing to stand in someone else's shoes and another thing to walk in them. It is one thing to watch the bull and another to fight it. We are fighting the bull every day. The truth is that here in Nicaragua we face U.S. policy which is against Nicaragua. This is nothing new. Since the last century, the United States has continuously attacked Nicaragua. In fact, Costa Rica participated in the struggle against [U.S. adventurer William] Walker when [words indistinct] tried to invade Nicaragua, in keeping with the U.S. interventionist policy against Nicaragua. [words indistinct] Here all the parties are legal; there are no outlawed parties here. Here the Constitution [passsage indistinct].

[Garcia] Don't you think it is easier to draw a comparison based on the negative aspects? I would say that you would have to see it from the other side, saying how Nicaragua has to overcome its problems of a lack of freedom...

[Ortega, interrupting] I reiterate that the problem here is not Nicaragua or a lack of liberty, but rather the United States' aggressive policy against Nicaragua. This prevents normalcy.

[Garcia] Don Oscar, can we emerge alongside Sandinism?

[Arias] I think that we Costa Ricans, who advocate democracy and want liberty, would like the same for all of Central America, so Guatemalans, Salvadorans, Hondurans, and Nicaraguans could enjoy peace, liberty, and democracy as we do. However, I believe that, more than the Costa Ricans, it is the Nicaraguans who must [words indistinct]. After all, they have fought for 40 years to secure a democracy very similar to Costa Rica's. After all, if it is not similar to Costa Rica's democracy, then it is not democracy.

We must call things by their name. If there is no pluralism; if there are no free elections; if there are no individual rights in all the countries; if there is no freedom of the press, as there is here in Costa Rica—then you can call it what you like, but it cannot be termed a democratic regime. I think that without democracy, which, as I have said many times, is the heart of the peace plan, a lasting peace cannot be achieved in the region. A lasting peace is not compatible with dictatorship, with totalitarianism. Therefore, a lasting peace requires as a precondition that there be democratic regimes in Central America, regimes in which the national presidents can be freely elected.

[Garcia] But do you want to be friends with the communists?

[Arias] I do not want to have enemies. As president of this country, I am dutybound to talk, to conduct dialogues with its neighbors. We are friends with our neighbors regardless of the ties they wear. I have to search for peace for Central America, although Costa Ricans might not consider this peace important to them. It is important not only to secure peace for the region in general but also to seek peace so Costa Ricans [words indistinct]. I must create an awareness that Costa Rica's development and the future of our children depend on peace in Central America. If we play with fire, sooner or later we will burn ourselves. After we have created a climate, fostered an awareness, and reached the verge of attaining the desired peace, if there is the will and if there is a true... [changes thought] It is possible that in Central America we could wage an endless war, such as in Vietnam, Afghanistan, Europe's Thirty Years' War, or the Persian Gulf, where Iranian and Iraqi soldiers are killed. But that war is not a present-day one; it is a war dating back 1,500 years. [words indistinct] the forces that live in Iran. [words indistinct] doomed to an endless war for many more years.

There are some who want this. There are some Sandinists who think that perhaps if there was no war there would then be no way to justify the fact that Marxism has not been the answer for the Nicaraguan people. Perhaps there is no special interest in achieving peace. [words indistinct] of President Ortega before the meeting could have created another climate. He could have

arrived at the 15 January meeting here in Costa Rica with greater optimism. [words indistinct] my duty is to seek peace. I will not capitulate, and I will do what has to be done to achieve it.

I would rather that the Nicaraguan people had a democratic regime, as I already said, which the majority of Nicaraguans no doubt wanted when they ousted Anastasio Somoza.

[Ortega] I think there is no [words indistinct]. It is up to the people in each country to decide what type of government they want. Here in Nicaragua, we opted for a revolutionary government. We are defending the revolutionary change at the cost of much bloodshed and [words indistinct], a democratic, revolutionary government with political pluralism, a mixed economy, and efforts to attain peace [passage indistinct].

[Garcia] This program is called "Criticism and Self-Criticism." I would like to give you the opportunity to engage in some self-criticism here before the Costa Rican people. What have you done to abide by the Esquipulas II agreement?

[Ortega] To be honest, I think that self-criticism can only be practiced when you are confessing. The truth is that since August, when the agreement was signed, we have abided by it. We have found ourselves confronting a very large problem: U.S. policy. They have systematically approved additional funds for the mercenaries. Just recently, they approved another $15 million in aid to the mercenaries. This has hindered the full implementation of the plan in our country. It is difficult for the opposition parties in Nicaragua to participate in a constructive dialogue if the contras continue their activities within the country, and the United States continues its support for the contras. They feel that the United States is pressuring them, that the United States is attacking them, that the United States is going to continue attacking them, and that the United States is going to invade us; therefore, [words indistinct]. Despite this, the government supported the national dialogue. The opposition parties, not the government, suspended this same national dialogue. The government is now waiting for the opposition parties to return to the negotiating table so that the national dialogue can continue.

As for the [words indistinct], we have given the political parties ample freedom to continue their activities within the country. The opposition parties have access to the media. They have LA PRENSA and Radio Catolica. There is no restriction or censorship. Therefore, I believe that we have taken big steps [words indistinct]. However, I do feel that our efforts have been manipulated [words indistinct] by the contras in the United States. Our efforts have been manipulated by the press. They have tried to present Nicaragua as a country that is only interested in an arms buildup and a country that refuses [words indistinct]. They have also said that we are not willing to (?support) a democracy in our country.

[Garcia] [Words indistinct] the issue of a dialogue with the Nicaraguan counterrevolution. You refuse to talk with the contras, and meanwhile your young men and women are dying. Why do you not alter your stand?

[Ortega] Because the Nicaraguan problem is a very special one. [Words indistinct] this war against Nicaragua.

[Garcia] Do you believe that the Salvadoran guerrillas and the Salvadoran Government should hold talks?

[Ortega] That is up to the Salvadoran Government; they must be the ones to decide whether they wish to hold talks with the Salvadoran guerrillas. What the Salvadoran Government must do is work on reaching an agreement with the Salvadoran guerrillas. How? That will be up to the Salvadoran president. How he does this is up to him. The same goes for the Guatemalan and the Nicaraguan Governments. We have committed ourselves to reaching agreements, and how this is done depends on each of us. The agreements do not force us to sit, face-to-face, with the armed groups.

[Arias] You are demanding that the CIA stop helping the contras. However, you have aided, and continue to aid, the Salvadoran guerrillas. I believe this is a contradiction.

[Ortega] The Salvadoran guerrilla movement was born within El Salvador, while the counterrevolutionary movement was born in Washington, not in Nicaragua. That is the difference.

[Garcia] [Words indistinct]

[Ortega] Of course. In El Salvador, [words indistinct], and when they were fighting against [words indistinct]. The Salvadoran guerrilla movement was born prior to the triumph of the Nicaraguan revolution; it was not created by Nicaragua. [Words indistinct]

[Garcia] [Words indistinct] policy of expressing nonsupport for the Nicaraguan contras. Do you want to dismantle the contras?

[Arias] Why don't you tell the Costa Rican people that [words indistinct]? Why don't you tell the Costa Rican people that their country received the Nobel Peace Prize because the world supports Costa Rica's peace plan? The world has expressed its support for the Costa Rican peace process and against war. [Words indistinct] that the world believes in Costa Rica's peace plan and opposes those who promote war; that the world opposes those who feel the Nicaraguan problem should be solved on the battlefield. Why don't you tell those who approve of aid for the contras that for every dollar the contras receive, the Soviets will give [words indistinct]. If the United States has given the contras $500 million, the Soviets have given the EPS $250 million. Therefore, I think we should tell the Soviets the same thing we are

telling the United States. [Words indistinct] I believe that if anyone wishes to compare the quality of the (?vodka) produced in the United States and that produced in the USSR, then [words indistinct].

I think we should (?defeat) the Sandinists on the field of democracy. I believe we should defeat the communists on the field of democracy. What does this mean? They took over power to remain in power. However, they were brought to the negotiating table and they had to accept a peace plan that is aimed at democracy. [Words indistinct], but in the military field they would be [words indistinct]. The world has applauded Costa Rica's stand. Latin America, Europe, and the whole world have applauded Costa Rica's stand, and they awarded the Nobel Peace Prize to the Costa Rican president.

What did the gentlemen of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee tell us in Oslo? That the prize was a way to encourage us to continue along the right path because they, and the whole world, believed that this was the correct path. They said that a search for peace, and not war, was the correct thing to do. Those who believe in war as a solution to the problem are mistaken. I [words indistinct] will never approve of a military solution to the problems [words indistinct]. Why? For two main reasons: First, I [words indistinct]. Sooner or later the Central American war will cross our borders and harm us. [Words indistinct] because I am a Catholic, because I am a Christian, because life is worth too much, because I feel that in this world [words indistinct] we should be able to resolve our differences by talking, not with [word indistinct].

[Garcia] Mr President, [words indistinct] special steps that should be taken during the Central American summit?

[Arias] What we expect of the summit is [words indistinct].

[Garcia] Then you don't have specific proposals to be presented at the summit. [Words indistinct], would you say that President Reagan is a warmongerer because of his policy toward Latin America and because of his support for the contras?

[Arias] I believe that the contra presence will force the Sandinist government to (?obey) and listen. The contra presence is [words indistinct]. If I favor a military solution, then I favor war; if I favor a dialogue, then I desire another kind of solution. The truth is that anyone who supports the peace plan has to oppose war.

When someone in Costa Rica says: I congratulate you, Mr President, because you [words indistinct], for your success [words indistinct], this means that the peace plan is good. [Words indistinct]

[Garcia] [Words indistinct] greatest obstacle in Central America?

[Arias] I believe that the government in Washington has used its aid to the contras as a way to achieve democracy in Central America. On several occasions I have stated that I had to persuade many people to support the peace plan, that is, to truly support it. I personally told President Reagan that he and I agree that democracy in Central America—in Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica—is necessary. However, I also told him that I believe in a democracy won through votes, and that he believes in a democracy won by bullets.

[Garcia] [Words indistinct] confrontation with the Costa Rican people?

[Ortega] I have no fear of something like that happening, and I do not think the Costa Rican people believe this. Perhaps some Costa Ricans, some enemies of the Nicaraguan revolution, believe this will happen. However, I believe in the Costa Rican people, the peasants who have come here to Nicaragua. Furthermore, I have spoken with Costa Rican peasants here and with leaders of peasants' cooperatives in Costa Rica. [Words indistinct] and they are very happy over Nicaragua's achievement, because for the first time, they are witnessing the cooperatives organization in our country and how the Nicaraguan peasants are happy since they have received land to work. They now own their land and can organize their own cooperatives. There is some exchange between the Nicaraguan and the Costa Rican cooperatives. Therefore, we could discuss the various sectors of Costa Rican society—students and professionals—whom upon their arrival in Nicaragua have found a reality quite different from the completely distorted image that some media in Costa Rica have portrayed.

[Garcia] The Free Costa Rica Movement [MCRL] has launched an intense campaign in the Costa Rican media to encourage demonstrations repudiating your visit to Costa Rica. Do you have the [words indistinct] security, that something could happen to you while you are here in Costa Rica?

[Ortega] I believe presidents undoubtedly are always subject to risks [words indistinct] everywhere. We are, I repeat, facing a superpower, the United States, which has influence everywhere. The MCRL [words indistinct] the U.S. terrorist policy against Nicaragua. The contras have many surface-to-air missiles supplied by the U.S. Government. Therefore, we cannot rule out the possibility of an attack against us. Nevertheless, we have no fears concerning the Costa Rican people. We know the Costa Rican people do not hate the Nicaraguan people or what we are doing in Nicaragua. The [MCRL] is a movement to free Costa Rica for the Costa Rican people. Thus, we are very happy to be visiting Costa Rica again [words indistinct].

[Garcia] How do you hope to convince the Costa Rican people that you have changed, that you seriously intend to lead the country to democracy, especially since you have already failed once?

[Ortega] Well, I believe that we have complied with the fundamental regulations established [words indistinct]. I believe the best way to convince a Costa Rican or any other person with doubts about Nicaragua—particularly in Costa Rica's case, since you are so close to Nicaragua—is by inviting you to visit us to see how our democracy works.

[Garcia] There is a famous statement you made: The Sandinists could leave the government but they would not leave power. What does this mean?

[Ortega] Well, that means power is always in the hands of the people. Power cannot be in the hands of a party, [words indistinct]. Therefore, power cannot be given to a party, because power must always be in the hands of the people.

[Garcia] Why are you so convinced that the people support you?

[Ortega] Well, people are not supporting me; they are actually supporting themselves. People are fully aware that a new counterrevolution would only bring bloodshed worse than what we have now. Thus, workers would lose their right to [words indistinct] and peasants would lose their land [words indistinct]. [3-minute break in reception]

[Garcia] We are resuming the transmission of the news conference, with President Oscar Arias Sanchez.

[Arias] I met with President Fidel Castro [words indistinct] that Mikhail Gorbachev is important for achieving peace in Central America. [Words indistinct] I believe that to a large extent, this conflict is a result of the East-West struggle. In Central America, violence perhaps began because of exploitation, injustice, and social and economic inequality—the typical North-South conflict. In time, however, this developed into an East-West conflict. The two superpowers are involved here in Central America just like they are in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, Angola, the Middle East, and many other places.

Therefore, if they wanted to, they could resolve this matter. If they were capable of reaching an agreement on something as important to mankind as the reduction of nuclear weapons, then I believe they will reach an agreement on the Central American problem.

[Garcia] The Free Costa Rica Movement has lately published a series of articles commenting on Daniel Ortega's visit to Costa Rica. They especially ask how is it that this government receives Mr Ortega when the Sandinist Government has caused so much damage to Costa Ricans. They cite as an example the death of the Civil Guards at Las Crucitas, the border attacks, and the murder of the Civil Guard at the Alajuela jail, when, in order to free Carlos Fonseca Amador, Humberto Ortega—who today is Defense Minister—killed a Costa Rican Civil Guard, for which he was found guilty. Do you fear Daniel Ortega's trip to Costa Rica?

[Arias] I do not believe anything will happen, and I pray to God that nothing does. It would be [words indistinct] for the world if it would happen. You know that the essence of democracy is tolerance. The media knows this. A democrat is tolerant, by definition. The characteristic of authoritative and totalitarian people is intransigence and intolerance, because [word indistinct] is absolute. The communists, as [words indistinct] said, have waged a war without a mortgage. This is the same as religion—it is a creed. This is not the cause for the democrat. The democrat is the one open to all ideas. I think it is a symptom of intolerance that people who do not share our way of thinking cannot come here.

TIME magazine named Mikhail Gorbachev as man of the year. Massachussetts presidential candidate Dukakis was sure that Mikhail Gorbachev could easily run on the Republican Party ticket. On 25 December, Christmas greetings were exchanged, with President Reagan appearing on Soviet television, while General Secretary Gorbachev could be seen all over the United States on television. This is a demonstration of tolerance. Does this mean that Reagan and Gorbachev have been lying? I am told every day that I am naive, [word indistinct], a fool to believe Daniel Ortega. Have I ever heard that a communist has ever kept his word? President Reagan knows very well that in the past the communists many times have not kept their word. He undoubtedly said, however, I am going to trust him, and then I will verify it. This is what I have wanted to do when I was asked if I trusted others—specifically Daniel Ortega. I want to trust, I will verify it later.

Then when the time for verification comes along and they have not complied, there will be enormous possibilities of many sanctions and much pressure to force them to comply. Then the Sandinist Government will have its mask removed, and we will know if it has given a chance in the absence of [words indistinct]. They have not complied with the amnesty, democratization, free elections, lifting of the state of emergency, and all the rest—without even excuses that would serve as a pretext for not complying with the peace plan.

[Garcia] After the famous defection of Sandinist Major Roger Miranda, he said through the U.S. media that the Sandinist Government intended to destabilize the Costa Rican Government. Do you believe this?

[Arias] I would't go so far as to say that I do not believe him. However, I believe that this country, today more than ever, is seeing itself in Nicaragua's mirror. [Words indistinct] I am thinking right now that it is very difficult to adopt an ideology, especially an ideology that has failed. I am one who believes that Marxism has failed and Marxism is not for developing countries. I believe that democracy, despite its imperfections, is the best

possible system, and that free enterprise in a society is important. As soon as we give up free enterprise, we tie the hands of man's imagination.

I therefore believe that if Marxism failed in Angola, in Vietnam, Ethiopia, and Mozambique, if Communism failed in Cuba and has failed in Nicaragua then what will they export? What success would they have exporting it? In what country of the world, with a democracy, one that borders on a Soviet Sandinist, totalitarian, and Marxist system, does anyone cross the border from a democracy to totalitarianism? It is always the opposite. The Berlin Wall is for preventing people passing from East to West and not from West to East. There is no one in Costa Rica who wants to live in Matagalpa, Leon, or Managua. There are, however, many Nicaraguans who cross the border every day. Then, if this is the case, then what are they going to export to Costa Rica? If they want to do it by force...[changes thought] A country without an Army, with so many friends, with such an efficient inter-American sytem—we will have more than enough friends to come and defend Costa Rica. We will never fall into the trap of believing that because we do not have an Army and there is a communist regime [word indistinct].

Regarding this indignation over President Ortega's visit, because Costa Rican blood was shed, I would like to ask Antonio, Who wants to revive the past, touching a nationalist vein of a very Costa Rican feeling of indignation that we all share, because two Rural Guards were injured at Las Crucitas? However, many of those people believe in war, believe pressure by the contras, and perhaps what they would like is to have a third Rural Guard killed.

[Garcia] Do you have plans to leave the presidency at the conclusion of your term, or will the same thing happen there that took place in Cuba, where Fidel Castro remained in power for longer and longer until he today is there for good?

[Ortega] We have a democracy. We will have elections here every 6 years. [Words indistinct] we find that in Western Europe, there are governments such as Mrs Thatcher's that have already served several terms, and no one is making any accusations against her. In the United States, President Reagan is in his second term of office, and he has been alleging that Presidents should be allowed to run for reelection as many times as they wish, since this is a right that cannot be denied to the people.

President Reagan says that the American people have the right to reelect a President they support as many times as they wish; Presidents should be allowed to run for election four or five or more times. He believes that to do the opposite would run counter to the freedom and to the rights of the American people. It would also run counter to the democracy and the liberty of the American people. [Words indistinct]

[Garcia] In the East-West confrontation, Nicaragua is on the side of the Soviet Union. You are receiving economic and military aid from the Soviet Union. What is the price for this, Mr President?

[Ortega] [Words indistinct] we have good relations with the Soviet Union, but we are not part of the Warsaw Pact. Although we receive support from some of those countries, this does not mean that we belong to the East bloc or are part of the East. We are part of Latin America, the so-called Third World, the Nonaligned Movement, the develping countries. That is what we are. [Words indistinct] struggling for a dignified peace, for more resources for the developing countries.

[Garcia] But are you receiving military aid from the Soviet Union?

[Ortega] We receive economic aid from the Soviet Union—a service.

[Garcia] This is a direct question: Do you believe in God?

[Ortega] Yes, I believe in God.

[Garcia] A little over 1 and 1/2 years ago, at my first interview with you after you became president of Nicaragua, you publicly promised that the Sandinist government would do something for the family of the Costa Rican civil policeman murdered at the Alajuela jail. [Words indistinct] Humberto Ortega [words indistinct]. I know that so far nothing has been done. Do you plan tomorrow, during your visit to Costa Rica, to try to resolve the situation of this family?

[Ortega] I am investigating the case [words indistinct], manipulating the civil policeman's family and exploiting them [words indistinct]. I will be receiving reports of the family before departing for Costa Rica. The fact is, we have every intention of helping the family, but [words indistinct].

[Garcia] Anyway, perhaps the Costa Rican people are expecting a reaction from the communist government. We will provide the necessary cables so that there will be no interference when you mediate with the civil policeman's family, to possibly establish a concrete form of aid [words indistinct]. We make the commitment to mediate between the Sandinist government and the family of the civil policeman murdered in Alajuela, in an effort to see whether this time the Sandinist government will actually make amends for the death of the head of this household. [5-minute station identification break]

[Garcia] Before the next question, I would like to make a comment, in a very kind way. Perhaps I have quarreled with you on behalf of all reporters in Costa Rica at one time or another; you sometimes forget that like the president who has obligations, reporters have the duty to report. In several instances—forgive me for scolding

you—many times you do not understand that intelligent criticism is needed. With several newspapers like LA NACION and LA REPUBLICA, every time reporters try to complete an in-depth report, one which forces you to think, you become annoyed. Let us use the specific case of LA NACION as an example. You have stated several times that LA NACION does not have a proper policy of informing Costa Ricans correctly, despite the fact that it is the country's leading newspaper. Don't you believe that LA NACION is unbiased?

[Arias] No one would believe that this is an unbiased newspaper. We all know that this is a biased newspaper, because it defends an ideology that is not followed by the majority of Costa Ricans. I would say that in general, pluralism can cover many fields. In politics one can choose rightwing parties, left-wing or centrist parties, and [words indistinct]. In the field of culture, there are many areas you can choose from. There is a very large (?number of) creative pictures [words indistinct]. Many paintings and sculpture exhibitions are also available. The same is true of sports. But journalism very nearly does not [words indistinct]. You [words indistinct] on page 15 or in different columns someone who defend others to the death or someone who criticizes others openly or even takes a radical position in his writing. (?The only thing left) is the editorials. Editorials reflect the newspaper's opinion in favor of the contras. I believe the war in Nicaragua [words indistinct] the commissions. I have just said (?the newspaper) discusses peace, but that (?it always) favors the contras. It is a mission of peace. It is a matter of peace, but this is so. If someone does not see it like this, then is because he does not want to.

This pluralism exists in many fields. You can send your children to either private or public schools. There are also private and public universities. [Words indistinct] In the field of journalism, however, this pluralism does not exist, because (?it supports) nearly everything. There is only one exception [words indistinct]. Generally speaking, however, the Costa Rican newspapers are conservative. The Costa Rican people can read about the opinions of others. For instance, let's consider Channel 6. I have never heard those at this channel earnestly advocate (?the Constitution). In addition, I avoid attacking it. But this channel is being attacked in those instances in which it defends the contras.

[Garcia] That was the first media source to report the presence of the contras in Costa Rica...

[Arias, interrupting] That is fine, and I believe they did well in reporting it. However, I have never seen [words indistinct]. As an editorial [words indistinct]. Anyway, as for criticisms against the contras, there is nothing wrong in reporting the presence of the contras in Costa Rica. However, what they were actually doing was attacking the government without [word indistinct], because here [word indistinct] armed contras in Costa Rica [words indistinct]. If there are any here, they are here against my will, for we do not permit this. In a way they [word indistinct], because by proclaiming [word indistinct] neutrality, we possessed reports concerning the presence of the contras in the northern region.

[Garcia] Well, what you were doing with those reports was telling the country: The president says one thing but in reality does another.

[Arias] But there is no problem, and I think that they did the right thing. However, by opposing the contras, the Costa Rican press... [changes thought] Because they believe that by opposing the contras they are opposing the United States, because they believe that by opposing the contras, they will anger those who [words indistinct]. It makes me laugh, because it is [word indistinct] to say that they favor the contras and also favor the peace plan when the two things are like black and white. The two things are contradictory and are mutually exclusive.

Now I would like you to know that I do not mind criticism. I am criticized every day, and with [word indistinct]. It does not bother me. However, I do believe that criticism is good when it is constructive, when it says: This is bad, and this is what the president should do.

[Garcia] When one hears the people of the newspaper UNIDAD complain that the newspapers [words indistinct] enough (?space) in a prominent place, and then when one hears the same complaints from the government people, from the members of the National Liberation Party, one would think that there is real balance, since they are both complaining about the same thing. We have even heard you state during a previous program that you granted LA NACION a lengthy interview that was published under a headline you disagreed with. You also said that it was not given much prominence. However, you have stated that you do not mind criticism. I would ask you: Aren't you a bit sensitive? When you are criticized, you frequently say that [words indistinct] envy. On some occasions, you have complained about the way in which the press has interviewed you. Aren't you a little sensitive about the way in which the press handles reports?

[Arias] Well, I believe that I will never complain because the press differs with me or because I differ with editorials in the press. In other words, evidently we have different ideologies. What I sometimes complain about is the language used. I recently met with LA NACION's board of directors to tell them just that, that the language they had been using recently, particularly by the end of last year, is...[changes thought] Well, I sincerely feel it is (?improper). When you publish an article entitled, The Homeland's Swindle, you are telling the reader that the president, who is struggling for peace in Central America, is a swindler, because that is what that word conveys. When you read a paragraph stating that in the past the presidents possessed the courage to fight for peace, while today presidents only have the courage to talk about

peace [words indistinct]. When someone says: I believe that it is not decent to ask the superpowers to keep their hands off of Central America, he is actually saying that it is not decent to do so. Therefore, I believe that the language used has gone overboard.

I do not mind being criticized in an editorial, because it reflects the newspaper's ideological stand, no matter what newspaper it is. What I demand is respect for my right to differ with an editorial line. The editorialist might want me to support the contras, but if I don't, my decision should be respected. As I told them, we should realize that we will have disagreements. However, [word indistinct] use that language just because I do not do what the editorialist recommends. Who says he has a lock on the truth? Does he represent the people? Was he elected to govern from his newspaper? No.

What I do regret is the fact that some reports are distorted. The greatest manipulation is in not publishing a report. There is good news that is not reported, and that is the greatest manipulation. In some cases, reports are not given the prominence they deserve. What I was saying, and perhaps [words indistinct] because I might have better examples, LA NACION named me Man of the Year. I was interviewed by Eugenia Sanchez, a charming female reporter, who I suppose [words indistinct]. I gave her a 3-hour interview, just as I once did for you—and you did a very nice report. I was interviewed for 3 hours, but the day it was published, it read: LA NACION Names Oscar Arias Man of the Year. However, LA NACION publicized this as an inside story, with no mention on the front page. [broadcast ends with "debate"in progress]

Nicaragua's Ortega Gives News Conferences

Discusses Own Peace Proposal

PA152311 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1657 GMT 15 Jan 88

[News Conference by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra with unidentified reporters in the "B" Room of the Central American Institute of Business Administration building in San Jose, Costa Rica—live]

[Excerpts] [Ortega] First, I convey the greetings of the Nicaraguan people to the Costa Rican people and say that I bring a message of peace and the will to work arduously to make the Esquipulas agreements become a 100-percent reality. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] President Ortega, in the past few hours THE NEW YORK TIMES [words indistinct] published a proposal by you on the present situation in Central America. It is a new proposal, one we are sure will be thoroughly discussed during the presidential summit scheduled to begin in a few minutes. I am sure we all want to know your opinion on the scope and content of that proposal published in THE NEW YORK TIMES and [words indistinct].

[Ortega] That proposal was drafted to strengthen the peace-keeping efforts contained in the Esquipulas agreements, to which all of us Central Americans are committed. In this proposal we reiterate our willingness to reach an understanding with the U.S. Government. We are not enemies of the United States. It is the United States that has followed a mistaken policy toward Nicaragua over the last century. We might also mention that Costa Rica participated in what was the first great Central American struggle to expel the invaders from Nicaragua. When there is a change in U.S. policy that lets us Central Americans implement the Esquipulas agreements and normalize relations between the United States and Nicaragua...[leaves thought unfinished]. We have come to this meeting with the utmost willingness to contribute to making it a success and to strengthen the peace plan initiated by President Oscar Arias. This plan has received vast support in Central America and the international community. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] In your progress report you stated that there is still some democratization work to be done in Nicaragua. Does this mean Nicaragua is going to request an extension of the deadline?

[Ortega] We feel this process cannot go on indefinitely. This process is forcing us to take steps and adopt measures. Contadora was a process that extended itself; however, Contadora never forced us to take steps. Contadora only concerned working on the draft of a peace plan, and when we were consulted on something regarding the plan we would agree or disagree or approve or disapprove. This went on for years. Then this proposal was born as a result of the efforts of Contadora and Latin America. We could add that this proposal, drafted by President Oscar Arias and presented during the second Esquipulas meeting, is much more realistic and practical. This proposal forces us all to take steps. This is just what we have been doing. Some of these steps have not been carried out because of something called simultaneity. This simultaneity not only applies to the Central American countries but also to the countries that are interfering in the area. Nicaragua does not approve of the U.S. actions in the area. The United States is interfering and is not respecting international law. The International Court of Justice ruled against the United States, but the United States has not respected this ruling. The Esquipulas agreements call for an end to all financing of rebel groups; yet the United States has responded to this by approving more funds for the mercenary forces. The United States is now planning to request more funds for the contras on 3 or 4 February. The Esquipulas agreements force Nicaragua to take specific steps, but the United States is not doing likewise. I think we must overcome this problem. The United States must begin to understand that this peace plan, the Esquipulas plan, does not affect them. On the contrary, this plan is good for everyone, and the United States must [passage indistinct] [passage omitted]

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ortega] I hope there will be a change, because this is positive. It is as if I were to say: I will not say anything. If President Duarte [words indistinct] who assassinated Herbert Anaya, president of the Human Rights Commission. Or if I were to say: I have nothing if President Azcona does not clarify who assassinated our deputy Miguel Angel Pavon, who was assassinated last night in Tegucigalpa or San Pedro Sula—pardon me—deputy Miguel Angel Pavon of the Human Rights Commission [CODEH]. He was killed together with (Aldet) Landaverde, brother of another deputy. It just so happens that Deputy Miguel Angel Pavon of the CODEH had testified a few days earlier before the CIVS [International Verification and Follow-Up Commission]. After testifying, he received threats from Honduran military men. Then two guys went to his house and killed him and Landaverde with machineguns. I do not believe we can get to Rome on that road. Therefore, we must define our views regarding other Central American countries and not allow ourselves to be pressured by the United States. It is obvious the U.S. Government is exerting strong pressure here. Let us not forget that ranking U.S. State Department officials have visited Central American presidents to threaten them with cutting off economic and military aid if anything positive emerges at this meeting. The U.S. Government wants this meeting to fail, because if it fails then President Reagan can say: It failed because of Nicaragua and, consequently, more funds will have to be approved for the war against the Nicaraguan people. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ortega] I appreciate the letter President Arias sent me. I believe it is a very constructive letter in favor of peace, calling on us to exercise reflection and flexibility. Concerning the states of emergency in war-torn countries, the truth is that every country should have its constitution contemplate states of emergency, states of exception, states of siege, and emergency situations for extraordinary circumstances. I do not know if Costa Rica contemplates states of emergency. Actually I think Costa Rica does contemplate states of emergency for extraordinary situations. Otherwise, I do not know what Costa Rica would do if all of a sudden it faced an aggression or an invasion, such as Nicaragua is facing, and did not implement a state of emergency. During World War II, although bombs were not falling on the United States, it imposed a state of emergency. There was tremendous repression in the United States as thousands of North Americans of Japanese origin, entire families, were taken to concentration camps. This also happened to North Americans of German origin. In Latin America, domestic or internal conflicts have caused states of siege and emergency to be imposed.

Therefore, in Nicaragua's case, where it is clear that a large power, such as the United States, is clearly the aggressor, the implementation of a state of emergency is more than justified. And we implement the state of emergency with a lot of flexibility.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ortega] I believe we must make an effort and pray for something positive to emerge from this meeting.

On Ending State of Emergency

PA170310 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 2331 GMT 16 Jan 88

[News conference by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega following the reading of the San Jose Summit declaration at the INCAE in San Jose, Costa Rica—live]

[Text] [Ortega] Good afternoon to the Costa Rican people, the Nicaraguan people, and the people of Central America. I wish to state that Nicaragua, in another firm effort to achieve peace, and in accordance with compliance to the the Esquipulas accords, has decided to take a series of measures that will contribute to the end of the illegal war that the U.S. Government is promoting. It is an illegal war that has been so labeled by the International Court of Justice, which has called on the U.S. President to end this war against the Nicaraguan people.

The Nicaraguan Government will from this date forward implement the law that suspends the state of emergency throughout the country.

2. [No number one as heard] The Nicaraguan Government will immediately call for direct talks with the armed groups to negotiate a cease-fire under the framework of the Esquipulas II agreement. The government, in accordance with requests made at the last meeting in Santo Domingo by that group, has decided to include Nicaraguans as part of the team that will conduct the talks with the mediation of Cardinal Obando y Bravo. We will immediately proceed to prepare a meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica.

When I return to Nicaragua, I will speak with Cardinal Obando y Bravo to hear his opinion of this idea—to see whether he agrees to his role as mediator, so that this meeting can be held as soon as possible in San Jose.

I want to clarify that at the last meeting in the Dominican Republic, which was convoked and proposed by Cardinal Obando y Bravo, the contra movement, in representing the U.S. Government, did not accept what it had previously agreed to. At that meeting, it put forth a condition. The contra movement said that the Nicaraguan delegation formed by Mr Hans Juergen Wischnewski and Paul Riechler should also include one official Nicaraguan representative. We did not accept this proposal, because we believed that a previous agreement was being violated. I think that Cardinal Obando y Bravo himself had made the previous proposal.

However, to prevent the contra movement—which is the instrument of U.S. policy—from devising pretexts, and to make another effort to attain a cease-fire agreement,

we have now decided to include a Nicaraguan official in the Nicaraguan delegation. This party will still be comprised of Mr Wischnewski and Mr Riechler.

The Nicaraguan Government is willing to repeal Amnesty Law No 33, which has currently been deferred to the CIVS, the moment that we attain an agreement for a cease-fire and the groups resorting to arms return to civilian life. Likewise, in case a cease-fire is not negotiated, the Nicaraguan Government is willing to free these people if the U.S. Government or any other non-Central American government decides to accept them in their territory. These people may then return to Nicaragua when the war ends.

As a fourth point, [no number three as heard], Nicaragua will hold elections for a Central American parliament under the established terms, and it will also hold municipal elections as established by the Constitution of the Republic.

These are the new steps that the Nicaraguan Government will take—in the middle of a war that is costing the lives of many Nicaraguans—to express our determination to achieve peace, to end this war, and to convince the U.S. Government that war is not the correct path; that it should abide by the ruling of the International Court of Justice and the UN resolutions that have repeatedly urged it to cease its policy of war against Nicaragua. The United States should respect the calls made by members of the Nonaligned Movement and by other international organizations. The U.S. Government should especially respect the will of Central America's peoples and presidents; and this will has again been ratified today in San Jose, Costa Rica. I am ready for your questions now.

[Reporter] The United States has been saying that one condition for a direct dialogue with Nicaragua is the establishment of a dialogue between the Sandinist government and the contras. Now that you will hold direct talks with the contras, what will you ask of the U.S. Government? Will you ask it to immediately resume the Manzanillo talks? Or, in other words, how do you view your relations with the Reagan government from this moment on?

[Ortega] I will send a letter to President Reagan offering a proposal on this matter, to see whether the U.S. Government will keep its word on opening a dialogue with Nicaragua.

[Martin] My name is Hugo Martin, from Uruguay's LA HORA. Good afternoon, Mr President. Will the dialogue with the contra representatives exclusively concern a cease-fire agreement, or could it also include a political discussion?

[Ortega] We have clearly stated here that it will be a meeting to agree on a cease-fire. If a cease-fire is reached and the contras are willing both to exchange their weapons for polls and to join the civil process, then things will proceed along the right path.

However, our meeting with the contras is exclusively to attain a cease-fire agreement. The contras will participate in a political dialogue when this dialogue is preceded by a cease-fire agreement, which will culminate with the contras' incorporation into the nation's civil life and their surrender as an armed opposition.

[Reporter] President Ortega, the U.S. Congress will soon vote on approving aid to the contras. Do you believe that today's meeting could postpone the decision by Congress, or could it cause the aid to be rejected? What do you expect in this regard?

[Ortega] In view of today's meeting, the U.S. Government [corrects himself] the U.S. Congress should respect the will of the Central American presidents. Therefore, it should not approve one single additional penny for the mercenary forces. One single additional dollar for the contras, regardless of whether it is termed humanitarian aid or not, would be a dollar used to kill the Central American agreements and the Esquipulas peace efforts that we ratified here in San Jose today.

[Suarez] My name is Ramon Suarez, and I represent EXCELSIOR. Mr President, we have heard people saying that Esquipulas II wants to eliminate the Contadora Group.

Could this be interpreted as a trend to deprive Nicaragua of forums as well as international, regional, continental, and world support?

[Ortega] I would be opposed to accepting de-Contadorization [descontadorizacion], because we Central Americans would be ungrateful if we were to refer in this manner to the efforts the Latin American governments and peoples have made for many years on behalf of peace in Central America. I can also affirm that without that prior effort by Contadora, the Esquipulas accords would not have been possible. Contadora set the stage for the emergence of Esquipulas. That is why we have on the whole considered the document presented by the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission [CIVS], which includes the Contadora and Support Groups, the United Nations, and the OAS. We consider it advisable that all of these organizations continue to participate in this peacekeeping effort.

Specifically, with regard to disarmament and security issues, Contadora has a guaranteed role in these and in matters relating to Nicaragua. I am certain that the rest of the Central American states will agree that Contadora, the Support Group, the United Nations, the OAS [words

indistinct] should contribute to efforts involved with on-site inspections and verification, which are essential for progress to totally fulfill the agreements.

[Reporter] Thank you.

[Reporter] Mr President, you spoke of an amnesty, according to Decree No 33. How many [persons] are included or excluded?

[Ortega] Well, the decree is applied in a general sense. The judges, the judiciary bodies are the ones that determine what exceptions can be made.

[Gereta] My name is Gianni Gereta; I am with PANORAMA, based in Italy. Mr President, what guarantees did you obtain in this third Esquipulas meeting that these other steps will be taken considering that the contras continue to receive supplies, from August to the present, when a cargo plane was even downed in Costa Rican territory? What guarantees did you receive on the part of the other Central American presidents or other parties inside or outside Nicaragua that these steps will be taken when the CIVS virtually disappears from the scene?

If there are no guarantees, then another mechanism should be established, another form or method of verification. When the CIVS did not even make an on-site verification in the strife-torn regions but has simply limited itself to hearing about what the conflicting parties have done? [sentence as heard] After Nicaragua has incessantly told the Nicaraguans that it would not sit down for talks with the contras? This, in fact, represents the legitimization of the so-called Nicaraguan Resistance [RN]. Aren't you concerned that the Nicaraguan people may perhaps find it difficult to understand this?

[Ortega] The guarantee stems from the pledge made by the Central American presidents that all of us will fulfill the commitments. I am referring to what the CIVS says about the fulfillment by different Central American countries. Without a doubt, it clearly states that an effort was made, but that the accords have not been completely met. Therefore, we hope that the agreement will be fulfilled.

That is what is expected—that it will complied with, trusting the word of the Central American presidents. And this word will be tested as of today, in the coming days. As for the verification mechanisms, these will be left for the meeting of foreign ministers—as happened after the Esquipulas II meeting—who will formulate these mechanisms and call on organizations or countries to comprise this organization.

That is Nicaragua's position in the sense that Contadora, and the Support Group, continue working in this process, in view of the experience and goodwill they have demonstrated. The document clearly states that other nations, and regional or outside organizations will be called on to participate in this effort. As for cease-fire agreements, we have said there can be no political dialogue with the contras. In order to have a political dialogue, the contras must first lay down their arms and accept the civilian option.

Only then will the contras be able to participate in a political dialogue. The talks we will hold in San Jose are exclusively to discuss a cease-fire agreement. These talks have a very specific purpose: They are a dialogue to attain a cease-fire, a laying down of weapons, [words indistinct] to join in an amnesty with all necessary guarantees and for them [the contras] to become a civilian force if they wish to. If that is the case, they will be able to join any Nicaraguan political party, or to refrain from participating in politics if they wish to. This will depend on each person.

In any case, I want to clarify that any other type of dialogue will only be held with the United States. We will discuss security matters with the United States, but we cannot hold a political dialogue with it, either. We cannot discuss domestic Nicaraguan politics with the United States. We could, however, hold a political dialogue on security matters [with the United States], because the United States is always claiming that Nicaragua threatens U.S. security in Central America.

I am certain that the Nicaraguan people view this as an honest effort on our part, because it is a commitment we must fulfill in accordance with Esquipulas II, regardless of the actions of the other Central American governments.

[Todd] My name is Ian Todd from the British WORLD AFFAIRS REVIEW. Mr President, does the amnesty you proposed today include amnesty for former Somozist Guardsmen?

[Ortega] Well, if the U.S. Government is willing to receive them, we will send them there. That is no problem.

[Molina] Good afternoon, Mr President. My name is Victor Molina, from the Guatemalan Notisiete newscast. If a Central American verification and follow-up commission, such as the one recently put together with extraregional members, is formed, what trustworthy and objective mechanisms do you believe you could establish—if any is possible—to control one of the most critical aspects of the Central American conflict, namely the arms race?

[Ortega] That mission has been assigned to the Contadora Group. The Contadora Group raised a specific point on the issues of arms and security. This effort is already underway, and we must simply accelerate it now. In addition, I believe that immediate on-site inspections will be very important for other problems that arose here.

[Vega] Mr President, my name is Patricia Vega, from Canal Seis. Mr President, why did Nicaragua wait 150 days after the signing of Esquipulas II to announce a pledge to fulfill the agreement? What would happen if the agreements are not complied with?

[Ortega] We must take the Nicaraguan situation into account: We must confront the U.S. policy in our country, for the agreements have to be fulfilled within the framework of simultaneity.

As the CIVS stated, none of the Central American governments have completely fulfilled the agreements. According to this commission, all Central American countries still have some unmet commitments. Some have more and some have less, but we all have pending matters to attend to; that is the framework of simultaneity.

Therefore, Nicaragua could not take other steps outside that framework. At today's meeting, we stressed that it is necessary to have on-site verification. This will test our goodwill and our word, because we would be willing to install international technical commissions in each of our countries to control attacks against any other Central American state, attacks launched from our national territories.

[Lane] Mr President, my name is Charles Lane, from NEWSWEEK. I have two questions. First, here in San Jose we received a report from Managua stating that four Nicaraguan opposition leaders were arrested, supposedly because they met with contra representatives in Guatemala. What are your comments on this? Second, you announced elections in Nicaragua in accordance with the Nicaraguan Constitution. When will these elections be held in Nicaragua? On what date?

[Ortega] The elections for the Central American parliament depend on the [word indistinct] of all Central American parliaments or congresses to ratify that agreement.

Only Nicaragua and Guatemala have ratified this agreement. Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Honduras have yet to ratify it.

[Reporter] I refer to...

[Ortega, interrupting] There is a deadline after this. As for the municipal elections, it is up to the National Assembly, within the framework of the Constitution, to determine this date. These elections, however, must be held prior to the coming general elections.

Regarding the detention of these two people in Nicaragua, we have talked to and agreed with the Central American presidents that we cannot condone the activities of groups who conspire against Central American governments; we cannot approve those activities in our respective countries. Measures have been taken in Guatemala with regard to the contras, who met with some members of the opposition groups' Coordinating Board in our country, who prepared a plot to form a front with the contras. Naturally, this becomes an illegal activity. This is no longer civic opposition. We commented on this during the meeting. This is unacceptable. Surely those gentlemen over there are being asked whether they advocate an armed or a political solution. We will wait and see how they will reply.

[Reporter] One question about lifting the state of emergency. I would like to know if this state of emergency is irrevocable. What will happen if new funds for the contras are approved? If the state of emergency is irrevocable, how will you people continue the war against the contras?

[Ortega] Well, the state of emergency is established in countries to cope with difficult situations. This [one-second break in transmission] presupposes people must desire peace, cease aggression. If peace does not occur and outside aggression does not end, then we would have to apply the Constitution in our country. We would have to take all the necessary measures to defend our nation.

[Reporter] Mr President, according to an article published by THE NEW YORK TIMES recently, you have started a number of initiatives. I would like to know if you have received any reactions to them. My name is [name indistinct] of the Soviet Union.

[Ortega] The only observed reaction has been from [words indistinct]. He said if we initiate a dialogue or a negotiation, such as the one proposed in Costa Rica for a cease-fire agreement, they [not further identified] would be willing to initiate dialogue with Nicaragua. We will wait and see if they make good their word or not.

[Reporter] Mr President, my name is Peter Ford of THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR. Today's statement did not specify a deadline for fulfillment and no deadlines has been set for a meeting of the five presidents to avoid compliance [as heard]. I ask: How could the five countries immediately comply with aspects of the Esquipulas agreement, which was defined as a process last November, as the declaration states. Do you trust the verification by the five foreign ministers, whom you have already described as being judges deliberating on their own cases?

[Ortega] Two procedures have to be followed here. The foreign ministers will have to meet to define the manner of verification. The idea is not for the Central American foreign ministers to verify compliance with the agreements, but they will seek ways to have this verification carried out. We think it is convenient, just as it is established in the document that President Arias released today, to convene a meeting of regional countries, such as those of the Contadora or Support Groups or countries out of the region, who have shown a

willingness to participate in an on-site inspection. Those countries would include Canada and other Northern Hemisphere countries. These countries would work on this specific verification task.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ortega] I beg you pardon?

[Reporter] How can the countries comply with the agreement?

[Ortega] Well, this tests our willingness, because peace according to Esquipulas II has already been defined. Now we ratify it. Of course, everyone has made efforts. The idea now is to immediately work to comply with the plan in its entirety.

[Ibarra] My name is Jose Rodolfo Ibarra from Telenoticias Channel 7 of Costa Rica. I have two questions in one. Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, according to what he told our director a few minutes ago, said that he will come immediately, if you so request, to Costa Rica, taking advantage of the fact that two of the Nicaraguan Resistance leaders are in this territory—if you would be willing to stay in our country to begin the talks immediately, as is stipulated in the agreement. Second, regarding the arrest of the three leaders of the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board [CDN], how do they stand? Would they be detained, fall under the amnesty, or could they simply be released?

[Ortega] They are being investigated, and we will see what the outcome is, because if they are specifically engaged in armed action, then the weight of the law would fall upon them. That would be so in any country in the world. Conversely, if they are not engaged in armed actions, then they will be released, but we must let the investigations continue to proceed. As for your first question on whether Cardinal Obando y Bravo would come, I have not planned to meet with these gentlemen. Instead, in keeping with the process of reaching an agreement on the cease-fire—which we began in the Dominican Republic—we would pursue it here. That would be, of course, following to the fullest extent possible the proposal made that Mr Wischnewski and Mr (?Corrales) be accompanied by a Nicaraguan and that it be in a Central American country. That is why we wanted to hold the first meeting here in Costa Rica.

[Moody] My name is John Moody of the TIMES [not further identified]. Will the amnesty have any effect on the case of U.S. citizen James Denby?

[Ortega] The problem is that James Denby has not been sentenced yet. We must wait to see what happens in Mr Denby's trial.

[Reporter] Then he would not be covered [by the amnesty]?

[Ortega] Well, we must consider that since Mr Denby is not a Nicaraguan, he is a special case. We do not know if the tribunal is going to sentence him or set him free.

[Melgar] Edgardo Melgar of Honduras Channel 9. Mr President, to what extent does the desertion of Roger Miranda reflect the disenchantment of the Sandinists for their own government?

[Ortega] I do not think that Judas reflected a disenchantment with Christendom. If Jesus had deserters, why should we be any different if we are merely mortals, as I recently told a newsman.

[Tovar] Fernandez Tovar, Radio Nacional of Costa Rica. Assuming that the United States or any other extraregional country were to receive the Somozists, what percentage of Nicaraguan prisons would be emptied? Second, if that contra aid that President Reagan is asking the U.S. Congress for is not authorized, would you ask for that money so your government can partially rebuild or repair the damage caused in part by that nation?

[Ortega] As for another country receiving these prisoners, we made it clear that they must not be Central American countries. We will not burden the Central American countries. The burden should be borne by the United States, above all, which has promoted what President Reagans calls brothers. Well, he can take his brothers, his freedom fighters, to the United States, and we will see if President Reagan's actions are consistent with what he has said, if he is willing to take his brothers to the United States, to give them jobs there, to give them a chance to live there, to make a living. President Reagan has the keys to release his brothers from Nicaraguan prisons.

[Reporter] Paris LIBERATION. Mr President, in the document signed today by the Central American presidents, it specifies that the special jurisdictions have to be suspended. In other words, will the Nicaraguan Government suspend the TPA's [Anti-Somozist People's Tribunals] or not?

[Ortega] Lifting the state of emergency means exactly that, to lift the state of emergency in the country. Then we would have to determine in legal terms what things would and what things would not remain in operation. I extend another greeting to the Costa Rican people, to the Central American people.

CIVS Report to Central American Presidents

PA190308 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 18 Jan 88 pp 16, 20

[International Verification and Follow-Up Commission report to the Central American presidents—date and place not given]

[Text] Report of the progress attained in the implementation of the procedure to achieve a firm and lasting peace in Central America.

1. The International Verification and Follow-Up Commission [CIVS] of the Guatemala Agreement has ascertained the Central American people's hope for peace and their desire to establish or, in the appropriate case, perfect democratic, pluralist, and participative regimes. These regimes must be the result of a free vote, effectively guarantee respect for human rights and economic development, overcome unjust and anachronic social structures, and defend the peoples legitimate right to choose their own destiny without external interference. All the Central American peoples' fervent hope to achieve peace and a political, economic, and social democratization is hindered by a geopolitical struggle alien to them and by hegemonic interests that are indifferent and alien to their legitimate hopes.

2. The CIVS wishes to state the following concerning the implementation of the pledges that the five Central American governments assumed by signing the Guatemala Procedure for Establishing a Firm and Lasting Peace in Central America, hoping this will help achieve the people's legitimate hopes.

3. Despite some initial reservations, the five Central American countries have fulfilled the pledge stated in the Procedure to Create National Reconciliation Commissions.

4. There has been no uniformity in the five countries' interpretation of the document, or about the viewpoints on the composition of the National Reconciliation Commission [CNR], or the adoption of the commission's decisions. It would be convenient if these problems were resolved.

5. Within the spirit of conciliation advocated by the procedure, it is advisable that the CNR of countries "where deep divisions have taken place within their society" should include representatives of political parties or groups closely related to irregular forces or rebel groups, with the intention of strengthening the CNR's reconciliation mission. This is the case in Nicaragua, and was the case in El Salvador.

6. In fact, referring to El Salvador, the initial creation of the CNR reflected the viewpoints outlined in the previous paragraph, but the withdrawal of two opposition political parties' representatives from the CNR has created an unforeseen situation that affects the commission.

7. Referring to the pledge of participating in a dialogue with all the internal political opposition groups and with those that have sought amnesty, the CIVS has ascertained that in Nicaragua's case, the dialogue began but has been suspended because the opposition parties have withdrawn. Referring to El Salvador, the CIVS has ascertained that the government has talked with many political opposition sectors, although some of them feel the government has given priority to the dialogue with the armed opposition. Referring to Honduras and Costa Rica—based on information provided by the Honduran Government, in the former case; and the Costa Rican opposition parties, in the latter case—the internal dialogue is evident, because political parties in these countries fully exercise their freedom of expression and will soon participate in elections. Regarding the dialogue with the political opposition, the CIVS is convinced that it is necessary to insist on and step up the efforts to achieve national reconciliation.

8. El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua have issued amnesty decrees, even though Honduras had reservations about the application of this pledge in its case.

Referring to Costa Rica, the CIVS does not think it is necessary to issue an amnesty decree. Nevertheless, some foreigners detained in Costa Rica would benefit from the amnesty decreed in their countries of origin. Therefore, the CIVS feels that the Costa Rican Government should study these cases so they may attain their freedom.

9. Criticism has been expressed concerning the content and extent of the amnesty decrees in certain cases. In the specific case of El Salvador, where a general amnesty based on the ideas of pardon and forgetting was issued, CIVS noted that the amnesty decree benefited political prisoners, but that it only gave a 15-day period for the groups up in arms to join it.

10. In the case of Nicaragua, although the government issued a pardon and an amnesty decree, which is still valid for the groups up in arms, the implementation of the amnesty decree for those in jail was made contingent upon the CIVS verification of an end to the aid for the irregular forces from regional and extraregional states, as well as the verification of the nonuse of neighboring territories for the destabilization of the Nicaraguan Government. The invocation of the principle of simultaneity is one of the structural problems of the application of the Procedure to Achieve a Firm and Lasting Peace in Central America. These problems will be analyzed further on in this report.

11. In the analysis of the implementation of the amnesty law, CIVS collected testimonies stating that in several countries and to various degrees, former governments systematically eliminated captured members of irregular or rebel forces, who could have joined the amnesty decrees recently issued by the current governments.

12. It must be taken into account that the purpose of the amnesty is to open up political opportunities in some countries so that opposition groups, especially rebels, may rejoin the democratic process. It is therefore premature to make a definite judgment regarding the effectiveness of the amnesty decrees as instruments of national reconciliation.

13. No 3 of the Guatemala Document [Procedimiento de Guatemala] provides an extensive outline of a democratic process, which is difficult to achieve in 5 short months in a region that has been characterized by a troubled history.

14. It is fair to recognize the stability and the large degree of development of Costa Rica's democratic institutions.

15. In the case of Nicaragua, the CIVS has been able to verify that, despite the seriousness of the military aggression the country is suffering from, firm steps have been taken for the implementation of democracy. However, spokesmen of some opposition parties and of nongovernmental organizations have expressed the need to differentiate between state and party institutions and the implementation of more extensive guarantees for the exercise of civil and political rights.

16. According to a large majority of the sources of information that have been consulted, the intention of the Central American presidents to promote a more effective popular participation in various aspects of democratic life and in looking after the protection of human rights has been limited in the case of some countries because of the abuse of authority by security forces and by the action of paramilitary groups. The CIVS also received reports of human rights violations committed by guerrilla forces or rebel movements.

17. The CIVS has verified that there is no state of emergency or siege in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. The commission has learned that in El Salvador there is a decree in effect that allows the authorities to arrest persons and hold them for more than 72 hours. In Nicaragua, the lifting of the state of emergency is subject to the CIVS' verification of the suspension of aid given by other countries of the region and outside the region to irregular forces as well as of the nonuse of foreign territory to destabilize Nicaragua. The government said that in practice the state of emergency is applied with flexibility. In more than one country, the practical inoperativeness of Amparo or of Habeas Corpus petitions very often allows for long detention periods under less favorable conditions than those stipulated by law.

18. The CIVS is pleased to see preparations for the establishment of a Central American parliament in the five countries. The creation of this important institution marks significant progress in the democratization process and it will strengthen the political, economic, and social integration of the region's countries.

19. Despite the efforts that have been made, the lack of a cease-fire agreement in the countries in which guerrilla forces and rebel movements operate, and the intensification of military actions after the signing of the Esquipulas II agreements, which resulted in deaths and material losses, are a cause of deep concern.

20. Calls made to guerrilla forces and rebel movements in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua to agree on a cease-fire or to accept an amnesty and join the political processes in their respective countries in accordance with the Guatemala Document have not been successful.

21. Despite calls made by the Central American presidents, the U.S. Government's policy and practice of providing military assistance to irregular forces that operate against the Nicaragua Government still persists. The definite suspension of this assistance is an essential requirement for the success of the peace efforts a whole.

Likewise, the Salvadoran Government has accused Nicaragua of providing aid to the rebel forces in its country, and has stated that the suspension of this aid is an essential requirement for the successes of the peace efforts of the process as a whole. The CIVS heard the Nicaraguan Government's rejection of such an accusation.

22. Regarding the agreement not to use the territory of a country to attack another, the CIVS has learned of charges made by certain governments in the region and of statements made by nongovernment sources regarding aid to guerrilla forces or to rebel movements given by other Central American governments, as well as the use of the territory of some countries to attack others. In this regard, charges have been made by El Salvador against Nicaragua, and by Nicaragua against Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica. The governments in question have indicated that they could not accept such charges unless they had been substantiated, and have expressed their willingness to allow an unconditional inspection of their respective territories. CIVS must point out that the use of the territory of any one state to attack another, with or without the acquiescence of the country whose territory is so involved, abets the actions of those forces or movements and hinders the attainment of peace.

CIVS has been unable to conduct on-site inspections because it lacks the necessary mechanisms to do so.

23. Concerning compliance with No 7 of the Guatemala Document, CIVS was pleased to note the meeting held in Caracas on 10 December 1987, in compliance with a decision made by the Executive Commission in its San Jose meeting of 27 and 28 October 1987. The Caracas meeting was to continue negotiating pending matters concerning security, verification, and control under the Contadora Agreements, and disarmament of the irregular forces willing to take advantage of the amnesty decrees. The meeting was attended by representatives of the five Central American countries and of the Contadora Group.

The results of this meeting have allowed us to set the terms of reference for future negotiations: agreements regarding arms and military personnel; military maneuvers; procedural and operational aspects of the Verification and Follow-up Commission's statutes on security matters and procedures for the disarmament of irregular forces.

Provisions were made for future meetings to be held in Contadora Group countries. The next meeting will be held in Panama, during the first week of February 1988, and Colombia has offered to host the subsequent meeting.

24. On the subject of refugees, the CIVS noted with satisfaction that progress has been made in the establishment of institutional mechanisms as well in specific aspects, such as protection, assistance, and voluntary repatriation, which constitute clear advances in the search for humanitarian solutions to the problems of the region. In this respect, the holding of an international conference on Central American refugees during the year, sponsored by the governments of the area's countries in cooperation with the UN high commissioner for refugees, would be a significant contribution to the peace efforts. The situation of displaced persons continues to be a great humanitarian problem, the solution of which demanded additional urgent efforts. The achievement of the Esquipulas II objectives will subtantially contribute to a definite solution of the displaced persons and refugee problems.

25. The general commitment of Esquipulas II, consisting of achieving peace through the cessation of hostilities, amnesty, democratization, an end to the aid for the rebels and insurrectional movement, and the nonuse of territory to attack other states, has not been achieved to date. The fact that this goal has not yet been reached does not detract from the validity of the Guatemala Agreement, although a constant political desire is imperative in the search for formulas to overcome these obstacles.

26. In evaluating the progress of the fulfillment of the procedure to establish a firm and lasting peace in Central America, signed in Guatemala on 7 August 1987, it is fundamental to remember that, as its name implies, it is a program of action that forms part of a process. Therefore, 150 days after the signing of the agreement, it would be as contrary to the truth to declare that no progress has been made as it would be to declare it successful.

27. It must be remembered that the deterioration of the Central American political, economic, and social structure did not take place in one day; therefore, we cannot expect peace in the region to be reached all at once. The factors at stake here are extremely complex, and they exert their influence on different levels at the same time.

Many factors in the Central American scene have not been contemplated in the agreement signed by the most interested participants: the region's presidents. This represents a tremendous challenge, because attempts are being made to put into practice an agreement that must be universally satisfactory, simultaneously applicable and verifiable, and one that involves countries that, although they are part of the conflict, are not signatories of the agreement.

At this particular stage, therefore, it is improper to declare the success or failure of a process still under way, but rather we must evaluate the progress already made, to identify what needs to be done, and to suggest ways to achieve it.

28. The CIVS, therefore, after having discussed specific subjects of its mandate, deems it necessary to make two general recommendations, not only because they are necessary for total compliance by the signatories, but because it feels they comprise a useful contribution to the entire process.

29. It is timely to voice the concern of several non-Central American CIVS members regarding the participation of the Central American countries in the verification process since they are, themselves, part of the conflict.

The presidential summit might discuss this subject so that a practical difference be made between the participation of non-Central American CIVS members and that of the Central American members in the verification. No modification of the agreement would be necessary. This subject is related to another problem that has been brought up at CIVS meetings, namely, the lack of a workable framework for decisionmaking.

30. One of CIVS' first considerations was the need to establish practical mechanisms for the verification of the agreements of the Guatemala Agreement.

To verify compliance with the commitments dealing with security—that is, the cease-fire, the nonuse of territories to attack other countries, and the discontinuation of aid to rebel movements and irregular forces—it is essential to conduct on-site inspections. These inspections are necessary to have an objective, independent, and effective verification. All CIVS members accept this basic premise and no one opposes the establishment of a mechanism before the verification and follow-up can be started.

31. In this regard, the CIVS foreign ministers have agreed to notify the Central American heads of state that it is prudent to request the United Nations and OAS secretaries general to urgently send a technical mission to the region. This technical mission would finalize the details of the establishment of mobile units in the five Central American countries, with the characteristics outlined in the mission's second report.

32. Concerning the agreements on democratization, including respect for human rights, the free election of national leaders and of members of the Central American parliament, and concerning the status of refugees and displaced persons, the CIVS feels its verification and follow-up mission may be supported by international organizations.

33. The CIVS feels it pertinent to state that there are other factors of a structural nature that might affect compliance with the agreement as a whole. These factors are listed below.

34. The nature of Esquipulas II consists of more than a juridical formal obligation. It consists of a political commitment that supports it and in the undeniable fact that it has broad support from the people as well as unanimous international support. However, the procedure could be complemented with elements that will facilitate a practical implementation, such as a plan to carry it out and a timetable for complying with the commitments.

35. It is almost public knowledge that the element that allowed for an agreement on the Guatemala process was for the parties to settle their differences concerning compliance with the various commitments when they agreed that these commitments should be complied with simultaneously. The international community was pleased with this formula that settled differences that were apparently irreconcilable and concerned the central problem on the attainment of peace and democratization.

36. The differences of opinion concerning the sequence of action have brought up the fact that unless a simultaneous compliance is reached within the general framework of Esquipulas II, it could hardly be achieved. Despite the efforts that have been made, this is a serious and urgent problem that has not been solved yet.

37. The drafting of a schedule of action for carrying out the procedure entails negotiation. This complex and inevitable task migh receive decisive support during the presidents' meeting in San Jose.

Area Military Chiefs Meet in Tegucigalpa

PA161356 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio-Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Report by Miriam Mercado]

[Text] The three military chiefs of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras met yesterday at the Tegucigalpa Air Force Base, where they reviewed the recommendations they would make to the presidents of their respective countries before the Central American summit meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica, a diplomatic source told this news station.

Colonel Eugenio Vides Casanova, Salvadoran defense and public security minister; General Hector Gramajo Morales, Guatemalan defense minister; and General Humberto Regalado Hernandez, commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, met all day yesterday and had lunch at the Honduran Air Force headquarters.

It is believed this important meeting of three Central American military chiefs will result in a firm position with regard to the Esquipulas II agreement. The meeting will undoubtedly have an effect on the Central American presidents' summit. It is no secret that the Salvadoran and Honduran presidents positions have been previously discussed in two places: the U.S. Embassy and the military headquarters in each country.

Bomb Scare at San Jose Honduran Embassy

PA152328 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2250 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Telephone report by reporter identified as Carlos from San Jose—live]

[Text] At this moment Costa Rican radio stations are broadcasting information on a report of a bomb placed in the Honduran Embassy. Costa Rican security authorities and police are cordoning off the area of the Costa Rican [as heard] Embassy. Traffic has been stopped and an inspection is under way at the embassy to verify that there was a bomb at the Honduran Embassy in San Jose. Any further information will be brought to you over this station.

[Managua Domestic Service announcer] Yes, Carlos, I believe that this could also be part of the maneuvers of the CIA, part of the maneuvers of U.S. imperialism, part of the contra's maneuvers as they try to set up a situation. This is possible because they are capable of it, placing bombs in embassies such as that of Honduras, a country that is determinedly supporting the U.S. government's actions against the Nicaraguan people, Carlos.

[Carlos] Yes, honestly, Roberto, those are the only people capable of doing such a thing, the CIA, because no Costa Rican, no Nicaraguan, with the exception of the contras, would place a bomb in the Honduran Embassy precisely to dampen the climate of the presidential summit and thereby give it a new turn. Knowing contra terrorists, they might claim that Nicaragua placed the bomb because we are the [word indistinct]

Arias Urges Ortega's Compliance With Peace Plan

PA161319 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez has urged Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega to comply with the peace plan. President Arias told Nicaraguan ruler Ortega that at the presidents' meeting we are committed to go beyond a mere analysis of the documents presented by the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission.

Urging him to comply with the peace plan, Arias Sanchez told Ortega that we have the exclusive responsibility for the political evaluation demanded by our peoples.

The Costa Rican president sent that letter to the Sandinist ruler through Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Luis Talavera who met at noon with President Arias at the presidential palace.

President Oscar Arias Sanchez said he was greatly disappointed at the failure of the negotiations to reach a cease-fire in the countries affected by guerrilla warfare. The president said it is sad to see how armed actions have worsened throughout those nations since the peace plan was signed on 7 August 1987. He feels that this regrettable situation might be because the parties in conflict are trying to increase their negotiating powers or are taking advantage of international tension to show off their power.

President Arias Sanchez said this attitude by the parties in conflict might have a political explanation, but he admits this has become a serious obstacle for achieving peace. In fact, the stands of the parties in conflict have become more radical and they do not want to negotiate a cease-fire. The president feels that in tomorrow's meeting it is necessary to point out where there is a lack of willingness to halt war and how much forces from outside the region are contributing to the conflict.

President Oscar Arias urged the Sandinist leader to take more specific actions in order to reach a cease-fire. If the impression remains that there is no political willingness or ability to halt war and useless deaths, then we will probably conclude that the peace efforts have been defeated once again by rancor and a lack of tolerance. Arias Sanchez reiterated that he will be firm in complying with his people's wishes for peace and he will do everything possible to discourage armed struggles wherever they occur.

In another part of his letter to Daniel Ortega Saavedra, President Arias Sanchez said it will be necessary to reaffirm on Friday that the hoped-for Central American reconciliation should be a reconciliation of freedom and democracy. The liberating struggles that took place over 100 years ago cannot be betrayed by dictatorships. The core of the peace plan is democratization.

Arias told Ortega that a people who can freely express its feelings has no reason to take up arms, and that a nation where a freely elected majority is ruling can achieve reconciliation.

Pointing out that it is necessary to interpret our own history, President Arias told Daniel Ortega that in order not to evade responsibilities it is necessary to pave the way toward peace by adopting political decisions that will fill our peoples with pride. Arias told Ortega that he understands the seriousness of the current situation does not leave any room for games or empty words. There is no room in the Central America that is seeking peace for talking about militarization when there is a commitment to reduce armies. Betraying history, or a lack of understanding, might once again humiliate the many peoples of our America, Arias Sanchez told Daniel Ortega.

Cuba

Fidel Castro Sends Letter to Olympic Committee

FL160333 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Manuel Gonzalez Guerra, president of the Cuban Olympic Committee this afternoon reported that Cuba will not attend the 24th Olympic Games. Alberto Juan Torrena, second vice president of that organization, then read the letter from our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro addressed to Juan Antonio Samaranch, head of the International Olympic Committee, which underscores Cuba's position.

[Gonzalez Guerra] "We had an Executive Committee meeting this morning where we discussed Cuba's participation or nonparticipation in the Olympic games. We notified Antonio Samaranch at 1100 in Lausanne that the Cuban Olympic Committee had decided not to attend."

[Juan Torrena] "My dear friend Samaranch: You are aware of our country's efforts—in which I have personally participated—to make possible the most successful 24th Olympic Games with both Koreas hosting them.

"When I wrote you on this matter in September 1987, I confirmed our desire to do everything to avoid thwarting what still seemed possible at that time. In this regard, I addressed the authorities and people of the DPRK and gave our opinion that all parties should agree, in one way or another, on methods to hold the Olympics in an orderly manner; that they should demonstrate their highest aspirations and be willing to pass up everything that was not fundamental and would harm our principles.

"We realized that if we could not hold the Olympic Games satisfactory to everyone, the Olympic spirit would take a great step backwards.

"We watched your activities with hope: the visits of the International Olympic Committee to the two Koreas, your meetings with their representatives. We learned with satisfaction that the DPRK was doing everything possible and, in a laudable conciliatory effort, even expressed its willingness to accept an unequal role in the Olympics.

"There was also another hope at that time: That the complex and difficult internal situation in the southern part of Korea would change. A situation arose in 1987 that was to be expected. The protests of South Korea's people shook the prevailing system and the regime, which was on its way out, took all measures, even the most ferocious, sowing death in several parts of the country so it could remain in power.

"The announcement of general elections as the result of the heroic struggle of the people created the hope for a democratic opening which, on the one hand, would provide an adequate climate for the Olympics and, at the same time, would facilitate a better spirit of cooperation for the co-hosting of the games.

"Unfortunately, it has not been so. Such an opening did not occur. Hopes were dashed and nothing changed. Repression again prevails; arrests increase. Mistreatment of the population has worsened and the people's discontent becomes more intense. No one can guarantee that the violent popular demonstrations will not arise again in the middle of the Olympics and, along with them, the fiercest repressive measures against the people.

"Actually, although I have no intention of mixing Korea's political problems with sports, even our children in elementary school know that bullets, tear gas, and massive repression of the people would not constitute the healthiest and most honorable conditions for the Olympic Games.

"Based on those negative circumstances, in our opinion, the Olympic Games held under such risky conditions can only be guaranteed through the miracle of a consensus of the internal political factors of the southern part of Korea, which is currently engaged in an irreconcilable fight, for the peaceful realization of the games and the co-hosting of the same by the two parts of Korea. Aware of the importance of the Olympic movement, we think this possibility can still be examined and we hope such premises can be fulfilled.

"We act from deep convictions in stating our conduct toward the 1988 Olympics; we do not wish to contravene in any way the Olympic rules and no one can accuse us of trying to sabotage the activity just because we disagree with holding the Olympic Games under those conditions.

"The Olympic Committee and the Cuban Government have reached the agreement that we will not register. That is to say, simply, we will not commit ourselves to participate in the games.

"Although we deeply regret this unavoidable decision, our people and our athletes who are guided by deep ethical norms and by a great sense of honor will not be discouraged and will continue to prepare for the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, if the foolish act of sanctioning us for maintaining a dignified conduct is not taken.

"Nevertheless, we want to convey to you, dear friend Samaranch, that in consideration of the great interest you have expressed in our participation, if the miracle of holding secure games, without violence, in Seoul becomes possible, and you, with your proverbial tenacity, accomplish the heroic feat of having the games

co-hosted, we would be willing to reconsider our decision, if, under those circumstances you and the International Olympic Committee would decide Cuba's modest presence would be useful.

"I ask you to consider that the moral principles of the people are more important for Cuba than the emotions of the Olympic Games and the gold medals that can be won.

"With best regards,

"Fidel Castro Ruz."

Athletes Support Castro

FL182014 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] The letter the athletes in Cuba's national teams have just sent to Comrade Fidel will undoubtedly be recorded in golden letters in the brilliant history of Cuban sports. The letter, unanimously approved, comes as the best response to the usual speculators, to those who get excited about events they consider harmful to the revolution, to those, in short, who have never believed in human dignity and decency, precisely because they have always been lacking those qualities.

Our sportsmen's support for the decision of the Cuban Olympic Committee not to register for the Seoul games speaks very highly of their honor. It also shows that when we speak of athletes trained and educated by the revolution we are not using a meaningless phrase. On the contrary, we are referring to men and women who truly think and act like revolutionaries in any contest: They place the sacred interests of the people and the principles which sustain them above everything else. In this, there is no room for concessions of any kind.

Cuba loves sports and competition, so much so that no country on earth has accomplished so much in this field. Cuba has returned to sports its true meaning...[commentary interrupted by bulletin on surrender of Argentine rebel Aldo Rico and never resumed]

State Committee Official Perez Cortt Defects

FL181235 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Gustavo Perez Cortt, 53, who since November 1986 had been vice president of the CEATM [State Committee for Material and Technical Supply], betrayed the homeland [words indistinct] on the 16th. He defected during a technical stopover of his flight from Prague to Cuba. Perez Cortt was returning from a CEMA meeting in Romania which he attended as a member of a CEATM delegation.

Perez Cortt's work during that event showed certain deficiencies, for which he was strongly criticized by the head of the delegation and CEATM president, before he began his trip home to Cuba. He then deserted.

The traitor attended school in the United States between 1953 and 1957. He did not take part in the insurrection. He has held various administrative posts since 1962. His mother and other close relatives reside in the United States where they went following the triumph of the revolution. He never had a family of his own. His work had been generally considered efficient.

GRANMA Reports Defection

PA182120 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1830 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Havana, 18 Jan (EFE)—The Cuban newspaper GRANMA, official organ of the PCC, today reported that Gustavo Perez Cortt, 53, president of the State Committee for Material and Technical Supply (CEATM), deserted during a stopover for mechanical reasons made by the plane taking him from Prague to Havana.

According to GRANMA, which does not mention location of the stopover, Perez Cortt, who occupied the aforementioned post since November 1986, deserted on 16 January during his return trip from a "COMECON" (Socialist Bloc Common Market) meeting held in Bulgaria. [passage omitted]

GRANMA adds that "like other men of his character, those capable of betraying their own people, these individuals usually dedicate themselves subsequently to serve as instruments of the most despicable campaigns launched against the revolution. They earn their living as vulgar mercenaries for imperialism." [passage omitted]

[Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish at 1955 GMT on 18 January in a similar report adds:

"The newspaper [GRANMA] did not explain where Perez Cortt went, but the Prague-Havana flight makes stopovers in Madrid and Gander, Canada. [passage omitted]

"Diplomatic sources said the official confirmation on his escape has been unusually quick.

"The sources speculated that the Cuban Government has probably decided it must be more frank about these issues in order to compete with and counter the U.S. Government's Spanish language radio station, Radio Marti, which can be heard in Cuba."]

Malmierca Visits Panama, Meets Officials

FL181853 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca is today holding a round of talks with his Panamanian counterpart, Jorge Abadia Arias. He will later pay a courtesy visit to General Manuel Antonio Noriega, head of the Defense Forces.

Malmierca, who has been in the Panamanian capital since Friday, met on that day with President Eric Arturo Delvalle concerning the Central American situation and the regional summit held in Costa Rica. A note from the Panamanian press secretariat described the talks between Malmierca and Delvalle as friendly and said the two men had discussed the Acapulco accord for peace, regional development, and democracy.

Malmierca goes to Brazil tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Haiti

CEP Says Everything Ready for Elections

FL151854 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Excerpt] The members of the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] met with the press at noon today to say that as far as they are concerned, everything is ready for D-Day, 17 January. We are going to join one of our reporters, who was present.

[Reporter] Thank you, (Ketly). Good afternoon, Metropole listeners. The main statement made by CEP President Jean Gilbert at this morning's news conference was: Everything is completely ready for D-Day. The CEP president also said there were candidates to all elected offices.

Asked about the verdict concerning the rejected candidates, which is to be made public today, Gilbert says that as far as the CEP is concerned, these men are no longer candidates. He also says that if the Court of Cassation accepts their candidacies, and I quote: We will abide by the decision of the Court of Cassation.

He declared that should the candidates who have decided to participate in these elections conditionally—more precisely, the candidates who have asked that Article 291 of the Constitution be properly applied—refuse to participate in Sunday's elections if the court accepts the rejected candidacies, that is their business. The CEP will do nothing about that, he said.

Lastly, the CEP president thinks there will be heavy participation in Sunday's elections because, he says, the Haitian people are sick and tired of disorder. [passage omitted]

Rejected Candidates Make Legal Appeal

FL151630 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Clovis Desinor, Claude Raymond, Clemard Joseph Charles, and Alphonse Lahens, whose candidacies for next Sunday's elections were rejected, have appeared before the Court of Cassation. Their defense counsels were (Lherisson Alezi), (Marc Louis Raymond), and (Marc Pierre-Paul). Attorney Alphonse Lahens was his own lawyer.

The Court of Cassation heard them yesterday. The court's verdict is to be issued this morning.

The public prosecutor, represented by attorney (Luc D. Michel), said these rejected candidates did not fall under Article 291 of the Constitution. He asked the members of the Provisional Electoral Council to rescind their decision and accept the candidacies of Raymond, Desinor, Charles, and Lahens.

For their part, the defense lawyers pointed out certain errors contained in Article 291. They blamed the press for having created a big fuss in connection with this article. They said that Article 291 does not at all say (?what the press has claimed it says). Article 291 concerns public office and not elected office, they said.

During yesterday's discussions at the Court of Cassation, it was said the Constitutional Assembly, which wrote Article 291, had written [mal shita sou] it poorly. [passage omitted]

Court's Verdict

FL151957 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1907 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Monitored in progress]

[Text]...verdict issued this afternoon by the Court of Cassation. We will join our reporter (Rothschild Francois Junior), Mobile Unit No 20, who is on the scene, to get more details.

[Francois] Thank you studio, and good afternoon Metropole listeners. The verdict regarding the six [as heard] candidates who appealed the rejection of their candidacies before the Court of Cassation has just been made public. The candidacies accepted by the Court of Cassation are: Mr Etienne Raphael Francois, Mr Edouard Francisque, and Mr Alphonse Lahens.

The Court of Cassation declared a non-suit [irrecevable] in the appeals to the Provisional Electoral Council's decision of: Clovis Desinor, Claude Raymond, Clemard Joseph Charles, Vladimir Jeanty, and (Paul Antoine Cola). This means these candidates are definitely out of the presidential race.

According to the technical—so to speak—statements we received from the judges, these candidates' appeal was not in conformity with the law and that is why they were rejected. Their deposition contesting the exclusion was thus rejected by the Court of Cassation.

We repeat: Etienne Raphael Francois, Edouard Francisque, and Alphonse Lahens have been accepted.

The appeals of Clovis Desinor, Claude Raymond, Clemard Joseph Charles, Vladimir Jeanty, and (Paul Antoine Cola) have been rejected by the Court of Cassation.

This is Mobile Unit No 20, live, from the Court of Cassation, for Radio Metropole. Thank you, studio.

Duvalierists Eliminated

PA151812 Paris AFP in Spanish 1733 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 15 Jan (AFP)—A source close to the government today told AFP that the Duvalierist candidates have definitely been eliminated from Haiti's presidential elections.

According to the law, the election campaign ended today at 0600 and, therefore, only the candidates with official approval of the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) can run regardless of the final decision of the Court of Cassation, the same source said.

Six of the Haitian presidential candidates, banned for 10 years by the CEP under Article 291 of the Constitution—which bans "staunch" followers of the Duvalier regime from all public offices—had appealed the decision to the Court of Cassation.

CEP Rectifies Mistakes in List of Candidates

FL151709 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] The Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] announces that certain names read over the radio as being those of candidates to office such as (Francois Sanosier), (Frankel Nelson), (Luder Sauveur), and Villevalex Laurent, were mistakes. The CEP asks the public not to consider these candidacies, which for the CEP are null and void.

This news release is signed by the CEP president, Attorney Jean Gilbert.

Precautions Taken for Holding Elections

Weapons Collected

FL151700 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] The National Government Council [CNG] last night gave everyone bearing unauthorized firearms 48 hours to turn them over to the military authorities.

All automatic weapons, incendiary bullets [balles indendiaires], or explosives are prohibited under the CNG decree, which authorizes only small-caliber weapons and hunting guns.

This decree was published 2 days before the Haitian general elections and while everyone is awaiting the verdict of the Court of Cassation regarding the new Provisional Electoral Council's decision to reject the candidacy of six presidential candidates under Article 291 of the Constitution, which prohibits zealous Duvalierists from holding public office. This is the second time these six candidacies have been rejected.

Cars, Passengers Searched

FL152124 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] The military are making meticulous searches of vehicles and their passengers at various points in the capital. These searches began in the evening of 9 January, after the new Provisional Electoral Council made public the list of accepted presidential candidacies, but this is the first time the searches have been carried out in the daytime in the capital, where military trucks and armored vehicles continue to patrol the streets.

Traffic Regulated

FL151902 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Here is a notice from the general headquarters of the 39th Company, the police traffic department:

The traffic department informs all drivers of motor vehicles that on election day 17 January 1988, all motor vehicles except military patrols and vehicles authorized to cover the elections are forbidden to circulate in the vicinity of all the polling stations set up by the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP].

Second, this measure is basically aimed at facilitating things and guaranteeing maximum security for citizens who are going to vote, who are going to fulfill their civic duty.

Third, strong measures have already been taken by the traffic department to effectively prevent motor vehicle traffic around these areas.

Fourth, the traffic department reiterates its watchword of discipline to all drivers, inviting them to comply normally with these traffic department measures, under penalty of incurring severe legal sanctions for failure to do so.

The news release from the motor vehicle traffic department is signed by Lieutenant Colonel Roland Chavannes, FADH [Haitian Armed Forces], head of the Motor Vehicle Control Department, and approved by Colonel Gregoire Figaro, FADH, Port-au-Prince chief of police.

Further on 14 Jan CED News Conference

FL152238 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Unidentified speakers indistinguishable]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] During a news conference-,the four Haitian opposition leaders [Marc Bazin, Gerard Gourgue, Sylvio Claude, and Louis Dejoie] have announced that more than 100 persons inside Haiti, most of them rural group leaders, have been either imprisoned, arrested and later released, or summoned before the courts, while others have chosen to flee. [passage omitted]

We want a peaceful strike. We do not encourage any actions or declarations which might serve to incite violence, they emphasized during yesterday's news conference. Listen to some excerpts:

[Begin recording] [Gourgue, in progress]...to reaffirm our firm and unanimous will to refuse to participate in any way in the electoral masquerade being prepared, we leaders of political parties, having come together into the Committee for Democratic Agreement [CED], issue a pressing and solemn call for a general strike on Saturday, 16 January, and for a day of national censure on Sunday, 17 January 1988.

[Unidentified speaker, in Creole; in progress]...the strike because we need to show that the entire population wants to participate in the protest; moreover,we know it is not going to go out and vote. As for violence, we are not in favor of it. We declare we want a quiet, peaceful, orderly, calm, impressive strike. We don't want anything to be said or done which will lead to violence.

[Unidentified speaker, in Creole; in progress]...aware that the government has taken measures to force people to vote. They have asked each [communal] section chief to take 1,000 people to the polls. We have just received messages from the provinces asserting that the people are being pressured. The people are being told they must go vote, and that if they don't vote, they are going to have problems.

[Bazin, in Creole] Specifically, if they come get people to cart them away to vote, our advice to the people is to run away; do not stay where you are, so they cannot find you.

[Unidentified speaker, in Creole; in progress]...the population should gather into groups. If its vigilance committee was disbanded, the population should reform it. In the rural sections, the peasants should form groups of 50, 25, 30—with everything they might be able to use in self-defense if attacked by bandits. That's right. Self-defense is a legitimate right. Even the Bible gives a man the right to defend himself if attacked, regardless of who attacks you. So what we suggest to the peasants in the rural areas is to not leave themselves open, to not remain alone at home, to form groups of 25, 30, 50 people. If a little section chief shows up with a club to confront 5 or 10 peasants, only cowardly peasants would allow him to force them to go vote. That is my advice. I am not suggesting they throw rocks or cut people's heads off with machetes, but if they are attacked, if anyone tries to force them to do something they don't want to do, they should defend themselves. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Asked about the CED's stand should a president result from the 17 January elections, Marc Bazin of the MIDH [Movement for the Implementation of Democracy in Haiti], said the form of struggle adopted would depend on how power was exercised by such a government. If there is a democratic space, we will occupy it, but if there isn't, we will adopt appropriate forms of struggle, Mr Bazin said.

Bazin also said he deplored the fact that, unlike the American press and the U.S. Congress, which have been very sympathetic toward the Haitian cause, the U.S. Government appears ready to live with the results of these incredibly dishonest elections.

For his part, in the name of the four former candidates who form the CED, Gerard Gourgue reiterated the CED's hostility to the idea of any foreign military intervention, which he termed the worst of solutions for Haiti. [passage omitted]

New Political Group Opposes Elections

FL152300 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Excerpts] The National United Front for Change [Front Uni National du Changement—FUNC] which was created on 9 January, held a news conference this morning at the Palace Hotel and set forth its position on the current crisis in Haiti.

This political organization condemns the policy of the National Government Council [CNG] regarding this serious situation and the plots of the Duvalierist groups. It is opposed to elections on 17 January and to any foreign military intervention in Haiti.

The FUNC also asks that the public administration be cleaned up. It also says it has no candidates to elected office. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording of unidentified speaker] [Passage omitted] Third, the FUNC is in favor of high-ranking government officials resigning. [end recording]

The sudden appearance of this political group, while not all that surprising, nevertheless drew the attention of those present at the news conference. A colleague asked the speaker why the group had been formed so late in the game.

[Begin recording of speaker] [Passage omitted] Let me tell you that everyone here, all the organizations here, are here today because—how can I put it? It is as if someone lit a fire under us [words indistinct] forcing us to come forward. Why? Because up to now, we had never wanted to come up with a front or any organizations, because there were already many groups which said they represented the people. But there are so many vicissitudes, we see so much tugging in one direction and another, and so many changes of position, that we...[changes thought] I don't belong to any political party, and have always refused to join one. Why? Because we think in terms of principles. We think in terms of the people and in terms of principles. And we had not seen any group which represented our principles.

If we have today resigned ourselves to coming forward, it is because we see that many Duvalierist organizations—among them the current provisional government—are determined to hold elections in their own favor and take power back. [end recording]

In conclusion, in order to pull the country out of the current impasse, the FUNC advocates dialogue, unity, and unitarian strategy.

Namphy's Addresses Nation Before Elections

FL161737 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 0100 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Address to the nation by Henri Namphy, president of the National Government Council, from Port-au-Prince'sNational Palace; monitored in progress—live]

[Text]...an event extraordinary for us all—the holding of free general elections throughout Haiti. On Sunday 17 January, we are going to enter a new and privileged stage in our life as a sovereign nation; a stage for which we have striven steadfastly, and for which we have made very great sacrifices.

Dear fellow citizens, following the fall of the dictatorship and owing to the force of circumstances, the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] intervened, to counter the most dangerous consequences of a new de facto situation.

In the very first speech ever made by the National Government Council, it was stated clearly that the Army harbored no political ambitions whatsoever. We solemnly swore to accomplish a peaceful transition in keeping with Haiti's deep-seated realities and democratic aspirations.

With these last stages of the political calendar, this phase of our history, during which we have tried to successfully carry out the difficult, serious, and extremely delicate task of maintaining balance—as dictated by the circumstances of this recent period in which democratic freedoms were for too long a time confused with license—is nearing its end. Remember the savage strikes which had the effect of destabilizing the Haitian economy, the too-frequent street demonstrations, the incitations to revolt and violence, etc.

Having arrived at the end of the road, we must note that the difficulties were considerable because the legacy was a somber one. Guided only by love of the fatherland, the FADH has been able to maintain its unity despite myriad attempts at destabilization, which there is no point in enumerating.

Just hours before the general elections, we think that, despite all kinds of difficulties, we have done a respectable job and it is with the certainty that we have accomplished our mission conscientiously and in a responsible manner that we today call on the electorate to do its civic duty. Yes, in order to further the true democracy we wish to establish, we invite you, people of Haiti, to mobilize for the coming elections.

We urge the electorate to choose change, in security and for peace, through the ballot.

This is a unique opportunity for you, people of Haiti, to take your fate into your own hands; to make a definitive break from dictatorship; to say no to occupation, humiliation, servility, and defilement.

The nation's future depends on Sunday's elections. Through your ballot, you will be giving notice to the entire world not only of your maturity but also of your determination to activate development and to participate, by means of dialogue and mutual understanding, in taking up the challenges of the modern world.

Men and women of Haiti, our country is under threat from within and from without. Both its unity and its independence are threatened. Therefore, the nation must right itself.

Your participation in Sunday's balloting will lead to the establishment of peace and stability in this country, which has been traumatized by blind violence quite enough already. Elections will take place in a climate of order and security, with equal treatment for all candidates, to whom I wish the best of luck.

To you, the voters, my best wishes for a lucid choice. May the Sunday 17 January elections contribute to the establishment in unity and harmony of a just, progressive, and democratic society.

Long live a Haiti forevermore united! Thank you.

General Strike Shuts Down Businesses

PA161616 Paris AFP in Spanish 1507 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 16 Jan (AFP)—The general strike called for by the main opposition parties to protest Sunday's elections was being widely observed this morning in Port-au-Prince.

All businesses in the capital closed their doors and there was no industrial activity.

There was little traffic and only a few buses were on the streets, which are being patrolled by some Army trucks and armored vehicles.

In the major cities in Haitian provinces, activities were also limited but the strike has not been observed as much.

The strike was called by the country's four leading political leaders and former presidential candidates grouped together in the Committee for Democratic Agreement. They invited the population to express its repudiation for Sunday's election, organized by the National Government Council, which they have described as an "electoral farce."

Polls Open; Conflicting Reports on Situation

Journalist Reports No Problems

FL172204 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1807 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Report from Mobile Unit 18]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Thanks, (?William). I think my personal observations coincide with yours. After patrolling the capital's streets for the first 6 hours of election day, we can say the day began with a fire which, curiously, broke out this morning on Rue des Fronts Forts and which damaged several houses. The fire broke out at the C'est Mon Etoile Hotel, a hotel for transients, and spread to several other buildings. A total of six buildings burned, despite the efforts of the fire department.

Except for this incident, there has been nothing out of the ordinary noted; and voters—those who chose to vote today—were able to go to the polls without problems.

At this very moment, as I speak, the streets of Port-au-Prince are empty. Apparently, the great majority of people chose to stay home, and the doors of certain private residences are still shut. [passage omitted].

In Carrefour, which we visited, as (?William) did, the situation was similar. [passage omitted]

We also saw public transport vehicles. Yes, this must be pointed out. They were transporting voters for certain candidates, faithful to old habits, during these elections in which many irregularities have been noted.

This is Mobile 18, updating today's reports. Thank you, studio. [passage omitted]

Capital 'Deserted'

PA171356 Paris AFP in Spanish 1317 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Port-au-Prince, 17 Jan (AFP)—The streets of Port-au-Prince were deserted today 1 hour after the presidential, legislative, and municipal elections officially began in Haiti.

Army armored vehicles prowled the streets which are dotted with many barricades guarded by soldiers, all of which makes movement very difficult. Many polling stations have not opened yet.

Early this morning, a fire destroyed a building housing a hotel and a textile warehouse. The fire quickly spread to neighboring houses, and residents abandoned their homes.

Although the fire started by accident, it has contributed to the atmosphere of fear in the city. During the 29 November elections, pro-Duvalier groups opened fire on several polling stations, killing at least 24 persons while the Army stood by. The elections were then postponed. [passage omitted]

Very few people have turned out to vote in some neighborhoods of Cap-Haitien, the country's second most important city, 260 km north of Port-au-Prince.

Voters Reportedly Paid

FL172145 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1403 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Monitored in progress]

[Text]...to tell you that underneath the ballot that they give you so you can vote for a candidate there is a little money. This is what we have observed [constate].

There is a lady, for example, with money in her hand who is distributing it to voters as they give you a ballot to go deposit in favor of some candidate.

That is how we see things unfolding. We are obliged to present that [word indistinct] for Radio Metropole's listeners too, so that everyone listening [words indistinct] how things are going in the 17 January elections.

Leogane, Gonaives Quiet

FL171733 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1330 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Reports from Metropole's provincial correspondents]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Here is (Frantz), from Leogane:

[(Frantz)] [Passage omitted] It doesn't seem like an election is going on here. You would think the town of Leogane was under curfew. Everyone's doors are shut, and there is no one on the streets except an occasional pedestrian, out observing. There are a few polling stations. There are places where they tried to set up polling stations, but the people there would not agree. We can tell you that only a few people are going to very discreetly go vote. But people do not seem at all enthusiastic about elections.

There is no public transportation and the marketplace is not open. There are no activities at all in Leogane at present. The city woke up very calm and total silence has settled over the city. We will continue to observe and inform you.

[Announcer] We will now join (Edgard Bruno) in Gonaives, who will tell us how the electoral proceedings are going there. Gonaives woke up very calm, very cold, with not much activity at all. Our correspondent said that he personally saw that in certain densely-populated, poor parts of town, there were a few polling stations operating this morning, but not with [3-second break in transmission]. We will join (Bruno) now, in Gonaives.

[(Bruno), in progress]...how the elections are going in Gonaives. Gonaives looks like a graveyard. The streets are deserted—stores, churches, everything closed. There is absolutely no one on the streets in Gonaives. The marketplace, the polling stations—almost all of these places are empty. However, in the densely-populated, poor areas—Raboteau, for example—we saw a few people voting but in a flagrantly irregular manner, because we even saw 15-year-old kids saying they were 18 or 19 and being allowed to vote, with no identification required at all.

In certain other places, such as Lot Bo Kanal [another densely-populated, poor section of Gonaives], we also saw some people voting. However, there are not many. People who saw the referendum on the Constitution held by Jean-Claude Duvalier in 1985 will have an idea of what things are like at present in Gonaives.

However, we spoke with people we have on site in L'Estere who told us many people are voting there. But who are they voting for? No one knows.

The situation in the Ennery area is the same as in Gonaives. A majority of the people of Ennery have remained at home, except for a few people who are voting for relatives who are candidates. The peasants have not come into town. The marketplace is not operating.

In Gros Morne, our people there have told us the elections are not going all that well up to the present.

In Gonaives, both stations [as heard] are closed. All polling stations in Gonaives are under military guard. There are no vehicles in the streets of Gonaives except Army vehicles or BED [Departamental Electoral Office] or BEC [Communal Electoral Office] vehicles. The streets are totally deserted. At every corner, there are two or three people standing around talking and watching, but the big electoral movement that you see under normal circumstances is not present in Gonaives. Since it is still early, we will continue to observe and we will call you back later.

Radio L'Arc En Ciel Journalists Arrested

FL172115 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1735 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Aside from the elections, apparently some journalists have been arrested, (Rothschild).

[(Rothschild)] Yes, (Clarens). Three people were arrested this morning at Radio L'Arc En Ciel, one of whom was News Director Marc Antoine Delsoin.

According to reports from persons close to the arrested people, the building is under military guard for the time being. We don't know why these people were arrested. Here is the testimony of a Radio L'Arc En Ciel employee.

[Begin recording, in Creole] [Unidentified speaker] [Passage omitted] Yes, a Dessalines Barracks truck took them away. [sentence indistinct]

[Reporter] And how did they take them away? Did they take anything from the radio station?

[Speaker] Yes, they took the console, they took equipment, they broke the telephone, and they went away.

[Reporter] And they didn't say why?

[Speaker] No, they didn't say why. [end recording]

Reportedly To Be Released

FL172129 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1807 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] [First announcer] It is 1319 hours. Here is an update on the arrest of three Radio L'Arc En Ciel colleagues.

According to an Information Ministry source, the journalists arrested this morning at Radio L'Arc En Ciel, among whom is Radio L'Arc En Ciel News Director Marc Antoine Delsoin, will be released soon and the material that was taken will be returned to them.

[Second announcer] Did they give the reason for the arrests?

[First announcer] The source told us that Radio L'Arc En Ciel had received an alleged news release from the National Government Council saying that the elections had been postponed.

[Second announcer] Had the report been broadcast by Radio L'Arc En Ciel?

[First announcer] No, the report was not broadcast by the radio station, but the journalists were arrested anyway. It is not really...

[Second announcer, interrupting] Well, according to this same source, fortunately, they were not beaten or mistreated.

[First announcer] Right. According to the source, they were not beaten and they will be released very soon.

Government Releases Journalists

PA181908 Paris AFP in Spanish 1630 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 18 Jan (AFP)—Three employees of private Haitian radio station Radio L'Arc En Ciel, who were arrested last Sunday by the military, were set free a few hours later, the Haitian Information and Coordination Ministry told AFP today.

Marc Antoine Delsoin, news director of the radio station; and two other employees, Felix Lionel and Sito Sanon, had been arrested yesterday by soldiers who occupied the radio station in the morning.

The military men apparently thought the radio station had released a false communique from the CEP, in which the annulment of the elections was announced. Such a communique had been delivered to several news media, which did not publish it because they considered it to be false.

CEP President Jean Gilbert also requested the military officers to release the three persons, the Haitian Information Ministry stated.

Candidate on Alleged Voting Irregularities

FL171800 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1330 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Monitored in progress]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Of the 11 candidates who were running, one has withdrawn at the last minute. Lysias C. Verret of the National Rally Party [PARAN] announced in a news release he is withdrawing his candidacy because of certain problems he has encountered at the party and electoral campaign levels.

Also, Gregoire Eugene of the Haitian Social Christian Party made a statement last night regarding alleged fraud and irregularities noted in certain provincial cities in connection with what he calls guided elections. We will give more details later on these stories, which constitute today's headlines.

In Port-au-Prince—the areas I visited personally—I must say first of all, that there are polling stations in impossible locations. These locations are not at all accessible to the press, because you need a pass to circulate in front of certain polling stations. Thus, it is very difficult to reach them.

Very few people, at this time, have gone to the other polling stations scattered throughout the capital. [passage omitted]

There were perhaps 10 or 20 people in line waiting for the BED/West polling station to open, at almost 0730, so they could fulfill their civic duty. There was almost no one at the other polling stations I visited, not more than 10 persons.

Other polling stations remained closed, although the national radio and television station network, RTNH, was announcing these polling stations were operative, or that the places that the RTNH listed were polling stations. [passage omitted]

Good morning, Mobile 18.

[Mobile 18, in Creole] Thank you. This is our first report from the capital this morning. Port-au-Prince awakened calmer than ever this morning. It is very difficult for vehicles to circulate because there are roadblocks set up by the traffic department to ensure the security of the polling places. [passage omitted]

To avoid any misunderstandings, traffic policemen have been stationed at these roadblocks. [passage omitted]

These areas are completely calm. There is not much traffic. There are a few pedestrians but traffic is really dead. We passed several houses with no sign of life. All the doors are shut. The people seem to have preferred to stay inside. [passage omitted]

Some of the polling stations we were able to visit this morning did not have many people, but some were there waiting to vote. [passage omitted]

[Announcer, in Creole] Before we hear from the provincial towns, we are going to hear statements by Gregoire Eugene regarding a news conference he held last night at around 2300 to point out certain irregularities and fraud that his people in the provinces have reported to him. Here is Gregoire Eugene.

[Eugene] For many days I have been receiving indications about how regular things would be that made me fear there might be some problems with today's elections. Yesterday, for example, I learned that one of my supporters had to stop supporting me because he said he had been instructed to do so and he began distributing ballots for Leslie Manigat.

Then, from Thomazeau, my representative rushed here to tell me that a meeting of the [rural police] agents, the chiefs of the communal sections, was held at the police station and they had been asked to have people vote for Manigat. Because I had heard, since noon yesterday, that the same thing had been done with the Army in Gonaives, as a preventive measure, I chose to... [changes thought] because if I participate in elections, they must really be elections. I believe any plan to direct power discretely toward someone in particular in disregard of the will of the people is extremely dangerous for public order. This could lead to God-only-knows-what in Haiti.

That is why I insisted on making a statement. I felt that there was still time for the people organizing the elections, who are (?in charge of) the elections, to rectify; and to let the Haitian people choose freely. Because I have received reports from all the provinces. I know how popular I am or am not. [sentence indistinct] I would not be able to understand that, having gotten this far, despite all the concessions we have made, that we could wind up with directed elections.

[Reporter] Mr Eugene, does this mean that you have doubts as to the honesty of the elections, based on this proof?

[Eugene] Not just doubts! I am really worried about the fairness of the balloting. I am waiting for confirmation from my regional correspondents and representatives; and if I get confirmation that this is a general thing, the only concession that I could make is to consider that this was an individual initiative on the part of such-and-such commander. But if it is a general thing, in response to a general watchword, I will make a decision that I have a right to make.

[Reporter] So up to the present, you are still in the running?

[Eugene] I am waiting to see.

Candidates Say Elections Normal

FL172122 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1735 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Monitored in progress]

[Excerpts]...sure of the propriety of the electoral proceedings. Here is Mr Hubert de Ronceray at Radio Metropole's microphone:

[Begin De Ronceray recording, in progress]...precise figures, but according to the latest reports reaching us from Jacmel, from the rural areas in Jacmel, from Petit Goave, from the north, from the northeast, things are going very well. The reports from the southeast are very convincing. The population cast its vote massively in favor of the MDN [Mobilization for National Development]. The same is true for the northeast and for the Petit Goave area, the Leogane area, etc. [3-second break in transmission] As regards irregularities, is that it?

[Reporter] Yes.

[De Ronceray] Yes, of course [words indistinct] there are little (?surges) of anxiety, tensions, everywhere. There are accusations. I understand Mr Gregoire Eugene made a statement denouncing certain irregularities, for example, but it seems he has since rectified it.

I think that since elections are always cause for tension—people are very nervous, suspicious, and tense—this kind of thing is completely normal. I hope everything gets back to normal and that the results will be favorable for the nation. [end recording]

That was the essence of the statement by Hubert de Ronceray, a presidential candidate and the president of the MDN.

The electoral proceedings are unfolding normally, to the satisfaction of the president of the Assembly of Progressive National Democrats [RDNP], Mr Leslie Manigat, whom we also have on the telephone.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Mr Manigat, can you tell us if you are still, at noon on this 17 January, satisfied with the way the electoral proceedings are unfolding, based on the reports you have received from your colleagues?

[Manigat] Based on the reports from both the provinces and Port-au-Prince, we can say that up to now, the electoral proceedings are unfolding normally in a satisfactory manner. We noted a bit of timidity at the beginning in Port-au-Prince, which we consider normal. People were hesitating, trying to see what the general climate would be like today, especially after the trauma, the shock, of last 29 November. But after a time [words indistinct] and we have noticed there is fairly perceptible participation in the poorer, densely-populated areas. The lines are long. I just stood in line to vote myself at City Hall. The line was quite long. According to reports we

have received from other poor, densely populated areas, people are beginning to go out and vote. Things began changing at around 1000. In the provinces, the reports we are receiving are absolutely positive ones. I have up to the present received reports from Cap-Haitien, Gonaives, Les Cayes, Hinche, Ganthier, Croix-des- Bouquets and so forth; and up to the present things are proceeding normally.

Listen, you must understand that in Haiti, this is a new experience for many people. [3-second break in transmission] that there is a procedure to respect. There are technical details. Certain voters are not familiar with the techniques of electoral proceedings. [passage omitted]

So there are irregularities. Not really irregularities—little slips, becauses the voter is not accustomed to voting procedures. But as far as I know, so far one cannot accuse or reproach the polling stations of anything that would affect the credibility, cast doubt on the regularity, of these elections. [passage omitted]

Let's be careful. Have irregularities regarding the ballots been noted on the part of the polling stations? Is the polling station asking that the ballots be changed? [passage omitted]

It is normal for members of the Armed Forces to choose a candidate and to ask friends to vote for so-and-so, just as, I suppose, you will. But the question is, has the institution taken sides? Has anyone been forced [words indistinct]. No. [passage omitted]

If you are insinuating that there is a possiblity of an official candidacy—because that would indeed be important—I can answer you immediately. Yesterday, I received a frantic phone call from someone in the United States who called to tell me that CBS, that important U.S. television network, said the Army had a candidate and that this candidate, who would be elected, was not named Leslie Manigat. This was said yesterday over the U.S. network CBS.

Here in Port-au-Prince there have been many rumors to the effect that Gregoire Eugene himself was the favorite of the (?leaders). When I heard these rumors, I smiled. But I never ran to the radio to say this or that is happening because I don't believe these rumors. I think that at present, the Army has decided to let the elections take place in a completely regular manner. Up to now, there has been no proven intervention to force people to vote against their will. Therefore, certain [words indistinct] will vote for the candidate of their choice. [end recording]

That was a statement by Leslie F. Manigat, president of the RDNP.

'Bizarre' Election Results Reported in Aquin

FL182115 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Report from Aquin correspondent Julio Appolon]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Compared with what we observed yesterday, Sunday 17 January, we find the results they have given us very bizarre. Since we are not the ones saying it, but rather the members of the Communal Electoral Office [BEC] who gave us these figures, we will report them as received.

For the center of town, where there were three polling stations, a total of 3,021 people voted; but yesterday, at around 1800 hours, we checked all the polling stations and had found that 648 people had voted.

We will also give you a breakdown of the results per polling station: for polling station No 1, City Hall, 2,077 votes; for polling station No 2, the Public Prosecutor's office, 240 votes; for polling station No 3, the office of the civil registrar,749 votes.

From these three polling stations, Leslie Manigat received a total of 602 votes; Hubert de Ronceray, 32; Lamartiniere Honorat, 2; and Dumas Jean Arnold, 3.

As for the senators, (Seneque Pierre) received 537 votes; Julio Larosilliere, 442; (Rico Th. Bois), 158.

There was only one candidate for deputy, Mr (Jean Gardy Charlotin), who received a total of 648 votes.

Finally, for magistrate, the (Enik Abner Laguerre) coalition received 638 votes.

Meanwhile, for Vieux Bourg d'Aquin; La Colline, the sixth communal section of Aquin; and (Bodkin), the third communal section, a total of 6,082 votes were cast, according to the news release from the BEC members. The breakdown is as follows: Vieux Bourg d'Aquin, a total of 800 votes cast; La Colline, with three polling stations, a total of (?1,560) votes cast; (Bot), the third communal section, which comprises (Morisseau) and (Mon Sejour), a total of 3722 votes cast. This is a total of 6,082 votes cast.

These results can be considered partial results for the commune of Aquin and definitive results for the communities we listed—the town of Aquin; the sixth communal section, La Colline; the third communal section, (Bodkin); and the neighborhood called Vieux Bourg d'Aquin.

We also remind you we are continuing to receive complaints from members of the polling stations. They say the members of the BEC in Aquin—speaking of magistrate (Lebrun Leblanc) [words indistinct]—do not intend to pay them for working on 17 January. It is reported that they will have worked for free.

We are on the scene and following events and we will call you at another opportune moment.

This is Julio Appolon directly from Aquin for RTNH [National Radio and Television Network of Haiti].

CEP President Says Elections 'Big Success'

FL182147 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Elections were held nationwide yesterday, 17 January. Many people feel these elections were a total failure but many others feel they were a big success. Many people did not go vote and many others voted.

Attorney Jean Gilbert, president of the Provisional Electoral Council, feels the elections were a big success. [passage omitted]

We will have you listen to statements made by Jean Gilbert shortly after the polls closed yesterday, 17 Jan. Let's listen to him.

[Begin recording] [Gilbert, speaking French and Creole] We played and we won. We won because we played well. That is, the elections were well-organized and carried out in a fully satisfactory manner, in our opinion.

[Reporter] Yes, Mr Jean Gilbert, but there were a number of little problems encountered throughout the day at a number of polling places. For example, there were a number of polling stations which at approximately 1000 still had no personnel or had not had any materials arrive, as was reported by radio stations. Also, the members of the polling places were complaining they were not given anything to eat for the day. So we are asking you, what were the reasons for these problems? How can you explain this happening in Port-au-Prince, whereas our correspondents in the provinces informed us that this rarely happened in the provinces?

[Gilbert] (?Well, my friend), Port-au-Prince is big. The president of the BED , poor guy, yesterday—and all last week—called on a number of people to come make up the polling stations. And among all those people that he took...[leaves sentence unfinished] It seems these people had been infiltrated by shady characters, who had come to offer their services. He accepted and took them. He made the mistake of paying them in advance yesterday, precisely in order to motivate them to come to work on time and do the job correctly. He paid them in advance. Once they had this money in their pockets, this morning they did not show up for work. And we immediately realized—or rather, he quickly realized—he had been duped by those cunning people. We had to replace that riff-raff.

Thus, a number of polling stations were unable to begin functioning until approximately 0930, because we had to find representatives for them to begin the elections.

[Reporter] Yes, Mr Gilbert, but wasn't there special criteria for choosing the members of the polling stations? One can understand that a person could be duped like this, riff-raff showing up and the polling station's paying them in advance and all. But wasn't there specific criteria for choosing the members of polling stations?

[Gilbert] Please note this is not the CEP's job. It is the job of the BED of Port-au-Prince, of the BED of the Department of the West. Now, we had given the BED our orders. We told it to be very careful, to choose its employees carefully so we cannot be held responsible for this happening. Of course, we did help him solve the problem, but this does not mean that we had anything to do with this error.

[Reporter] Yes, Mr Gilbert, but...OK, Mr Gilbert, let's talk a little about the elections in Port-au-Prince. When, for example, do you think we can have the definitive results? The ballot counting has begun; we verified this ourselves. But when, sir, do you think we will have the final results? When will we be able to inform our listeners on exactly how many people voted and exactly how many votes each candidate received?

[Gilbert] Remember the Department of the West alone had some 2,000 polling stations. You can imagine what kind of a job it is to get all those polling stations together into BEC's; and then for the BEC's to count and record the results and get them to the BED; and then for the BED to pull a total and record it and get it to us. It is not a small undertaking. So, I cannot tell you that you will have the results in 24 hours or in 48 hours. All I can tell you is we are all, whether members of the BED or the CEP, slaving away to get the results out as soon as possible.

[Reporter] Article 57 of the electoral law of 16 December allowed each candidate to send a representative, an observer, to the vote counting. It seems there might be a few small problems. Some candidates' representatives were not admitted or something like that. What details can you give us on this?

[Gilbert] Again, that is not the CEP's job. They aren't supposed to come to the CEP. They are supposed to go to the BED. People have a tendency to confuse the CEP with the BED. They are not the same. It is true we share the same building. We are sharing premises with the BED because we don't have enough money. We did not feel we had to go out and rent another building for our offices. We managed to lodge ourselves here at the BED. But this does not mean that the BED's job is our job. Our job is different from that of the BED, [words indistint]. Of course, we are aware that certain candidates' representatives encountered this problem. They did not want to let them in whereas the place was already full of people. So we were forced to intervene. I intervened personally to make the BED president understand he is

obliged to give access to the offices to all these candidates' representatives so they can be present at not only the returning operations but also the counting of the ballots. This is normal and no one can say it is not. [end recording]

That was the president of the CEP, Attorney Jean Gilbert, who expressed great satisfaction with yesterday's elections in Haiti. He feels the elections, which in his opinion are a big success, constitute a big victory for the CEP.

Further on Gilbert Comments

FL182219 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Excerpts] The 17 January elections happened the way they happened, the way everyone knows they happened. Testimony, reports, interviews, and correspondent's reports describe clearly the elections organized by the country's authorities for yesterday, Sunday 17 January 1988; 49 days after the 29 November massacre that prevented the holding of the elections organized by the first Provisional Electoral Council [CEP], the elections that took the first CEP at least 4 months to organize. [passage omitted]

Yesterday's elections did not come as a surprise to anyone. They were just like those held in the past; poorly organized and fraudulent, both in the capital and in the provinces. [passage omitted]

In Carrefour [south Port-au-Prince] people stood around on both sides of the street, watching; as they usually do when something weird is happening in Haitian political affairs. They pointed out some irregularities to us, such as the business of people being paid $3 to cast a handful of ballots for Leslie Manigat. For its part, Radio Metropole had reported this business of money but without saying in favor of which candidate. [passage omitted]

For his part, Attorney Jean Gilbert, the Haitian Moliere, expressed his satisfaction with the elections over the government television station. The CEP president said everything had gone off well. In his opinion, this is the first time such an election has been held in Haiti.

According to Mr Gilbert, the leaders of the opposition are now cadavers. As usual, he again took a swipe at the former CEP. Mr Gilbert does not accept the figure of 3,033,303 of voting age given by the Haitian Institute of Statistics. He thinks there are approximately 2 million Haitians of voting age and, that out of those 2 million, almost all voted yesterday, 17 January.

[Begin recording] [Interviewer, speaking Creole]...of people who have a right to vote. How many people, out of those 3 million people voted today?

[Gilbert, speaking Creole and French] I don't think there are 3 million voters. We don't even have 6 million inhabitants here. I think the population of Haiti is around 5.5 million. But out of this figure, I think the electorate must be some 2.5 million or 3 million voters—taking into account those who are very young and certain old people, who are still of voting age, who are fairly valid to participate in this kind of popular demonstration, this kind of civic demonstration. [sentence as heard] Thus, in my opinion, the most voters that we could possibly expect is perhaps 2 million, 2,250,000, or 2.5 million people, voters. According to what I saw happening here in Port-au-Prince, and according to what I know happened in the provinces, I have the impression that if the number of voters does not reach 2 million voters, it will come very close to that.

[Interviewer] Mr Gilbert, that implies that today's elections were a total successs!

[Gilbert] Total, total, total! And I am in seventh heaven. I am in seventh heaven!

[Interviewer] I can see that, Attorney Jean Gilbert. It is so evident to me that you are in seventh heaven that I would like to know if... [leaves sentence unfinished] I see that you have a red finger...

[Gilbert, interrupting] Oh, I voted! I voted, like everyone else.

[Interviewer] [Words indistinct]

[Gilbert] Well, they had said we were "illustrious unknown persons". I would never affirm to them that I am not unknown, because, (?considering) where I came from, I could not fail to be unknown, since I come from the masses, from the womb of the Haitian people. Look here, the men who called me unknown... [laughs] [leaves sentence unfinished] I find it odd that they should have said this because it is they who know me better than anyone else. It is they who were my teachers. They contributed to my education. They made of me what I am today. I was their student. I remember that when I was in secondary school, I used to participate in drama contests. I used to win first place in those things, to the point that some of them said: Jean, dear friend, you are Haiti's future Moliere. [end recording]

Candidates Complain of Electoral Fraud

FL182244 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Excerpts] There were many complaints from the candidates participating in the elections. They protested that certain irregularities, chicanery, and/or fraud occurred during the elections.

Gregoire Eugene was the first. He said yesterday morning that there were irregularities, chicanery, and/or fraud in certain places, and that people were reportedly being asked to vote for Leslie Manigat. [passage omitted]

For his part, Alphonse Lahens denounced the presence of a representative of Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga's at the Villa Creole Hotel in Port-au-Prince; this was Jamaican Minister of Education Neville Gallimore.

According to Lahens, the elections will turn out to be guided elections in favor of presidential candidate Leslie Manigat. Lahens promised to give the names of certain authorities responsible for this.

[Begin Lahens recording, in French]...protest vigorously against the orienting or, rather, the electoral directing [dirigisme] going on today throughout Haiti.

I declare preremptorily that I am ready to meet face to face the person I am going to denounce. I thus declare these elections are being managed in favor of Leslie Manigat and this is being done under the supervision of Mr Seaga's representative, who is at this moment at the Villa Creole Hotel, and whose name is Mr Neville Gallimore. It is he who is calling the shots.

I declare I reserve the right to bring suit under the law against the refusal of the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] and of the Communal Electoral Office [BEC] for Gonaives to accept the ballots cast for me by my supporters at the polling station located in front of the school called Souvenance in Gonaives, in the Artibonite.

I also vigorously protest the refusal of the polling station in Cap-Haitien, which in view of the many people come to vote for Alphonse Lahens, refused to allow them to vote, claiming that I am not qualified to participate in the 17 January elections, when I have in my possession a letter from the CEP apologizing to me and authorizing me to pursue my candidacy. From the polling station in the Cul-de-Sac plain claiming that I am not duly registered and that I do not have a right to participate in the day's balloting, at the orders of the CEP. [sentence as heard]

I am holding the CEP and anyone found to have been involved in these underhanded dealings personally responsible.

I also denounce the measures taken in the central plateau, where my candidates to the chamber of deputies and to the senate, as well as to the position of communal magistrate, were approached in an attempt to get them to vote for Leslie Manigat in exchange for money. And the people who did this were accompanied by—had as go-betweens, had as spokemen—certain authorities whom I will denounce before the nation at the appropriate moment. [end recording]

For his part, Gerard Philippe Auguste, leader of the MOP [Movement for the Organization of the Country], denounced certain irregularities in certain polling stations. He also spoke of people making other citizens vote for Leslie Manigat.

[Begin Auguste recording] [Words indistinct] They were not sealed. On Avenue Pouplard, they also brought unsealed ballot boxes and they forced people to vote for certain candidates. We have reports to the effect that they forced people to vote for Manigat. [passage omitted]

In [name indistinct] they were forcing people to vote for the same candidate. [passage omitted]

At many other polling places, they took a bunch of MOP ballots and tore them up. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Remember the government television station showed Gerard Philippe Auguste and Leslie Manigat being chummy in Cite Soleil. According to their statements, this was just a coincidence.

Also, Phillipe Auguste, candidate for the MOP; Gregore Eugene, candidate for the PSCH [Haitian Social Christian Party]; and Hubert de Ronceray, candidate for the MDN [Mobilization for National Development], have all declared they won throughout Haiti by a landslide.

El Salvador

Duarte 'Willing' To Negotiate With 'Rebels'

PA171836 Paris AFP in Spanish 1736 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 17 Jan (AFP)—Following his return from the San Jose summit of presidents, Salvadoran President Napoleon Duarte today stated that he is willing to again negotiate with the guerrillas to agree on a cease-fire. However, he warned that the rebels must forsake violence as a means of achieving power.

Duarte explained that at the presidential summit, which ended Saturday evening, "it was made clear" that the agreement is not a means for the rebels in El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Guatemala to negotiate for power, but instead is solely a means to end hostilities.

At a news conference, Duarte said that according to the Esquipulas II accords, the guerrillas must lay down their arms and accept amnesty to join the "democratic process." According to Duarte, his government "more than complied" with the plan that was signed in Guatemala in August 1987. This agreement calls for a cease-fire, amnesty, democratization, preventing territory from being used to attack other countries, and an end to foreign aid for insurgent groups.

Duarte promised that the legislative and municipal elections slated for 20 March 1988 "will be the freest ones ever," because "strict orders" have been given to the government and to the Armed Forces to "in no way employ the structures of authority to influence the people." [passage omitted]

FMLN Captures El Monito Military Base

PA170508 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] At midnight on 15 January, guerrilla columns and militia units began the operation known as "Comrade Rigo, we count on your spirit of struggle on the path toward victory." At the start of this attack against the El Monito military base, which is located several kilometers from Jucuaran, the high command of the Salvadoran Armed Forces immediately sent in helicopters and reinforcements. In addition, it mobilized various units in the southeastern zone of the country, with the goal of preventing the FMLN's victory. [passage omitted]

After a 30-minute clash, the FMLN captured the El Monito military base, killing or wounding 27 soldiers. These casualties include the commanding officer of the Oromontique Battalion, as well as a second lieutenant. Early on the morning on 15 January, three Air Force helicopters flew in, fired rockets, and strafed the area. [passage omitted]

Two Air Force helicopters were struck by artillery fired from the Jucuaran Mountain range. They were visibly experiencing difficulties as they left the area. As we reported in an earlier newscast, our forces captured the following materiel from the Oromontique Battalion: part of an 81-mm mortar and one 81-mm mortar with four grenades—we will gladly return these grenades to any Army position. In addition, we captured 4 U.S.-manufactured, brand-new M-16 rifles, 2 U.S.-made M-79 rocket launchers, 71 grenades, 4 PRT-77 military communications radios, 3,000 M-16 cartridges, 1 U.S.-made (M-18) mine, 2 [words indistinct], and 34 U.S.-made knapsacks. Our courageous guerrillas and militia in the southeastern zone of the country are already using these knapsacks.

Nicaragua

RN Says 'Willing' To Join National Dialogue

PA170343 Paris AFP in Spanish 0243 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Washington, D.C., 13 Jan (AFP)—The board of directors of the Nicaraguan Resistance, RN, today reported it is "willing to the join national dialogue to achieve peace and freedom in Nicaragua."

The contras sent a letter concerning this to Carlos Huembes, president of the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board. Huembes proposed the dialogue in which the Sandinist regime, the domestic civic opposition, and the RN would participate.

A copy of the letter was sent to Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo and the Costa Rican, Nicaraguan, Guatemalan, Honduran, and Salvadoran presidents, who are scheduled to meet in San Jose on 15 January to analyze the progress of the Central America peace agreement.

In the letter, which was disseminated throughout the United States tonight, the counterrevolutionaries said they are "willing to join this initiative immediately" and "join the democratization and political proposals presented by the domestic opposition and which are part of the framework of the Esquipulas agreement."

In addition, the RN said it is willing to "immediately form a negotiating commission and to attend the San Jose meeting, which will discuss reconciliation, a cease-fire, an amnesty, and other political measures to bring peace and freedom for the Nicaraguan people."

Finally, the RN "encourages the domestic civic opposition to take all necessary steps to help this dialogue succeed."

The letter was signed by the six members of the RN's board of directors: Adolfo Calero, Alfredo Cesar, Azucena Ferrey, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, Alfonso Robelo, and Aristides Sanchez.

Cesar, Robelo, and Chamorro, who live in Costa Rica, received a request from President Oscar Arias—creator of the peace plan signed by the Central American presidents in Guatemala on 7 August—to leave Costa Rican territory "as soon as possible" if they continue supporting the armed struggle in Nicaragua.

According to RN sources consulted in the United States, the RN leaders—who were meeting in another Central American country—left for San Jose today to meet with President Arias.

May Meet FLSN in San Jose

PA180516 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0406 GMT 18 Jan 88

[By Agustin Fuentes]

[Excerpts] San Jose, 17 Jan (REUTER)—A group of Nicaraguan opposition leaders is in this capital to participate in proposed negotiations between the Sandinist government and the contra rebels.

The proposal for negotiations was made by Nicaragua's internal opposition and has been backed by the leaders of the RN, [RN leader] Alfonso Calero told REUTER by telephone this evening.

The Nicaraguan Government has yet to accept the proposal. [passage omitted]

Adan Fletes, member of the Nicaraguan Social Christian Party, told REUTER this evening at a San Jose hotel that he and the other opposition leaders expect to meet on Monday or Tuesday with Oscar Arias, the Costa Rican president. He noted: "We will give him our thoughts on the democratization of Nicaragua, a point that at the recent summit meeting of presidents was viewed as a key issue for peace."

Fletes noted that after this meeting, part of the group will return to Managua, while the others will remain in San Jose in case the parties involved accept the tripartite meeting. He also stated that the idea of holding a meeting between the Nicaraguan rebels, the government, and the internal opposition was presented by the latter at the time of the Guatemala summit, which was held in August 1987.

This proposal was reiterated in Managua during a demonstration marking the 10th anniversary of the assassination of Nicaraguan journalist Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, and, Fletes commented, it "was reiterated last week in Guatemala." He continued: "We went to Guatemala at the invitation of the Guatemalan Social Christian Party Youth to analyze the progress that has been made concerning compliance with the peace accords." He added: "While we were there, leaders of the RN visited us to tell us they accept the proposal of the tripartite meeting."

The internal opposition, he said, sponsors this proposal because it believes that democratization and a cease-fire in Nicaragua cannot be separated. He stated: "The Sandinist government's charges that we are trying to forge an alliance with the RN for warlike or subversive purposes are false. We want to strengthen the possibility of a political solution instead of a military solution."

Fletes also noted: We believe that the Managua government has made these unfounded charges to block a tripartite meeting. This is because it does not wish to discuss democratization, but only a cease-fire, "without complying with this very important point of democratization within the presidential agreements."

Fletes concluded by stating: "If we were guilty of subversive activities, we would not be returning to Nicaragua. Several of the persons who were in Guatemala but who have returned to Nicaragua have now been arrested. We know that arrest warrants have been issued for several of us who are in San Jose. However, we hereby ratify our decision to return, because the charges of the Nicaraguan authorities are completely groundless."

Meanwhile, Calero said that the rebels will not hold talks with the Nicaraguan Government as long as the opposition leaders arrested in Managua are not released.

CDN Condemns Arrest of Opposition Leaders

PA162019 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1710 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Communique issued by the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board [CDN] in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 16 January; read by CDN spokesman Ana Maria Ruiz—recorded]

[Text] The CDN denounces to the conference of Central American presidents the fact that the Sandinist government has arrested several leaders of the Nicaraguan civic opposition. This action is contrary to any attempt to achieve a solution to the crisis that has brought much grief and death to our homeland. Mario Rappaccioli, president of the Democratic Conservative Party; Guillermo Potoy Angulo, president of the Social Democratic Party; and Alberto Saborio Morales, president of the Bar Association of the Confederation of Nicaraguan Professional Associations, were arrested in Managua at the same time that the Central American presidents were meeting to discuss the democratization of the region.

The Nicaraguan Ministry of Interior has lodged serious accusations against the CDN—the broadest and most prestigious opposition alliance within the country, one comprised of 14 organizations including political parties, labor and professional unions, and private enterprises—and has taken direct actions against the top non-Sandinist political leaders. These persons have been arrested and taken to the state security dungeon known as El Chipote. This has been done in an attempt to heighten the repression against the unarmed Nicaraguan

civic opposition organizations. These incidents only create a climate of unrest and completely contradict the democratic spirit of the Esquipulas II agreement. Unfortunately, such actions are not a good omen for the desired political solution to the Central American conflict.

San Jose, 16 January 1988

Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board Press Department

Rappaccioli Released

PA170338 Paris AFP in Spanish 0315 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Managua, 16 Jan (AFP)—Opposition leader Mario Rappaccioli, who was arrested yesterday by Nicaraguan state security officials, was released on Saturday [16 January] evening, according to a Nicaraguan Conservative Party spokesman.

Silviano Matamoros said: "Rappaccioli, president of the Nicaraguan Conservative Party, was apparently released due to the mediation of Costa Rican President Arias."

Other opposition leaders including Alberto Saborio (president of the Nicaraguan Bar Association); Julio Icaza; and Duilio Baltodano, member of the Social Christian Party, were also arrested on Saturday by state security agents, but the source could not ascertain whether they had also been released. [passage omitted]

Opposition Linked to 'Conspiracy'; 7 Arrested

PA171830 Paris AFP in Spanish 1720 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Managua, 17 Jan (AFP)—The DGSE last night arrested seven leaders of the CDN and the Human Rights Commission (nongovernment), according to reports issued today by opposition sources. [passage omitted]

The arrested leaders are Social Christians Agustin Jarquin and Duilio Baltodano; Conservatives Silviano Matamoros, Alberto Saborio, Julio Cesar Icaza, and Mario Rappaccioli, who had been released by the authorities a few hours previously; and Human Rights Commission President Lino Hernandez.

The roundup of political opponents occurred hours after President Daniel Ortega, while in San Jose, where the summit of Central American presidents was held, announced the elimination of the state of emergency and the complete restoration of individual rights.

This situation was emphasized by Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, director of the opposition daily LA PRENSA, who said she was "confused." This is because while Ortega was making his announcement in San Jose, the DGSE, which is heaed by Minister of Interior Tomas Borge, was carrying out the arrests in Managua.

The sources said Nicaraguan Conservative Party President Mario Rappaccioli was again arrested at his home last night as he returned from a reception at the U.S. Embassy. This took place a few hours after the authorities released him after arresting him on Friday [15 January] evening.

Social Christian Agustin Jarquin was arrested at the Augusto C. Sandino Airport as he returned from the Central American presidential summit, which ended last night in San Jose. A relative of Jarquin said he was arrested by security agents who "were waiting for him at the airport."

Silviano Matamoros, political secretary of the Conservative Party, and Lino Hernandez, president of the Human Rights Commission, were arrested at their homes, Matamoros' wife reported. Alberto Saborio, Julio Icaza, and Duilio Baltodano were arrested at unspecified places.

Last week the minister of interior linked the opposition leaders, along with the contras, to an alleged plan to establish "a single front and a conspiracy to carry out terrorist actions in Nicaragua under the protection of the opening the government created as part of regional peace agreements."

Another important group of political opponents, including Carlos Huembes, CDN president; Jaime Chamorro, another director of the newspaper LA PRENSA; Miriam Arguello, another Conservative leader; and Tomasa Hernandez, leader of the Committee of Relatives of Political Prisoners, are still abroad and will begin returning tomorrow. It is not known whether they will suffer the same fate as their colleagues.

The government warned last Thursday that political opponents involved in alleged joint operations with the contras "would be thoroughly investigated." However, the Ministry of Interior today was silent on the roundup of opposition leaders.

It was also learned that another Conservative leader from Matagalpa, whose identity was not revealed, was asked to report to the security forces yesterday. It is not known whether he was arrested.

The authorities additionally went to the homes of other opposition leaders last evening, the sources reported.

All Released After 48 Hours

PA181700 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1516 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Managua, 18 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan Government today released seven opposition leaders after holding them for 48 hours in a local jail for investigation of a supposed antigovernment conspiracy in connection with the contras.

The arrested men recovered their freedom this morning after being questioned in the "basement of the Presidential Palace" in Managua about the so-called "Oliverio Plan"—which is presumably aimed at promoting terrorism in Nicaragua—the opponents reported. Alberto Saborio, president of the opposition Nicaraguan Bar Association, today told ACAN-EFE that state security agents interrogated those detained about a meeting they held in Guatemala with the rebels.

"We are not hatching a conspiracy against the government," Saborio said. He added that the meeting with contra leaders on 12 January 1988 was held to discuss matters that will "favor peace" in Nicaragua.

The names of the released opponents are: Agustin Jarquin, Social Christian leader; Mario Rappaccioli, head of the former parliamentary conservative party bloc; Alberto Saborio, president of the Bar Association, and Julio Icaza Tijerino, a sociologist.

Others released were: Duilio Baltodano, vice president of the opposition Social Christian Party; Guillermo Potoy, secretary general of the Social Democratic Party; and Silviano Matamoros, Conservative Party leader.

According to the government, the opponents recently met in Guatemala with leaders of the RN to establish a supposed "single terrorist front" in Nicaragua.

Moments before the opponents were released, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, mediator between the contras and the government, asked the Sandinist administration to reconsider the cases of the arrested men.

"It would be a more positive step," said Obando y Bravo, if the government "were to reconsider the arrest and imprisonment of the opponents."

Ministry on 'Oliveiro Plan'

PA182204 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1810 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Communique No 1801-01-88 issued by the Ministry of Interior's International Public Relations Department, dated 18 January 1988—read by announcer]

[Text] The Ministry of Interior, as established in Communique No 1401-01-88, issued on 14 January 1988—which publicized the decision to thoroughly investigate the actions which, in fulfillment of the so-called Oliveiro Plan, drafted by the CIA, have been undertaken by the leadership of the so-called RN, who met in Guatemala City with members of the CDN—proceeded to arrest Mario Rappaccioli, Agustin Jarquin, Duilio Baltodano, Alberto Saborio, Julio Icaza, Silviano Matamoros, and Guillermo Potoy due to its investigations. Miriam Arguello, Carlos Huembers Trejos, Jairo Lopez Tomasa Hernandez, and Jaime Chamorro Cardenal have not yet returned to the country.

During the 2 days these persons remained under arrest for investigation, we learned the following:

1. On 12 January 1988, in Guatemala City, the RN leadership met with members of the CDN and discussed various subjects and projects in the framework of creating a single front to defeat the Nicaraguan Government.

2. In this conspiratorial meeting, former National Guardsman Colonel Enrique Bermudez, the military chief of the counterrevolutionaries, fully expressed his views concerning the military situation. Alfredo Cesar and Pedro Chamorro Barrios explained the political situation.

3. Two U.S. citizens participated in this meeting. The CDN has not revealed their identities, but they constantly exercised pressure for the CDN to unify its efforts for counterrevolutionary activity.

4. Those questioned said they had met with President Vinicio Cerezo at the Presidential Palace and discussed the Esquipulas accords. These persons also noted President Cerezo warned that under no circumstances would he permit his country to be used to bring together alliances between the counterrevolution and internal Nicaraguan political organizations.

5. The CDN members said they had rejected a CIA request to establish a single front with the counterrevolution. They also promised that in the future they will abstain from holding meetings that are contrary to national laws, and that they will continue their activities in the framework of civil opposition. The CDN members who were investigated were released today at 0800.

[Signed] Ministry of Interior's International Public Relations Department.

Obando y Bravo Seeks Host Nation for Guardsmen

PA181550 Paris AFP in Spanish 2302 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Managua, 17 Jan (AFP)—Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo today stated that he was "happy" with the Sandinist government's decision to lift the state of emergency, decree a general amnesty, and establish direct negotiations with the contras for a cease-fire.

In referring to the announcement President Daniel Ortega made yesterday in San Jose, Obando y Bravo said: "It pleases me, because we have been insisting that there be the broadest possible amnesty in Nicaragua, since we want peace in the Nicaraguan family."

In statements to the press, Obando y Bravo also called for a non-Central American country to take in some 3,000 former Somozist Guardsmen who will be freed, but will have to leave Nicaragua if a cease-fire is not agreed upon.

"Hopefully, a second country will play the role of the Good Samaritan and receive the prisoners, if this becomes necessary," the cardinal stated. He will continue his mediation in the dialogue between the contras and the Sandinists.

Obando y Bravo noted that the steps President Ortega announced "are steps that are being taken, but this is not everything; there is still much to do. I believe that what is needed is the political will of those involved to attain peace and democracy." [passage omitted]

Request to Reagan Possible

PA191240 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1225 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, mediator for the cease-fire agreement with the mercenary elite, last night said that President Ortega told him he is willing to release 1,500 contras and 1,800 Somozist Guardsmen who are now imprisoned as soon as a cease-fire agreement is reached.

If that agreement is not attained, the imprisoned contras would be released only if any non-Central American government receives them, President Ortega said.

In addition, Cardinal Obando y Bravo stated he would even speak with President Reagan and with the leaders of other governments to negotiate the arrival of the guards following their release in Nicaragua.

Ortega Views Meeting With Obando y Bravo

PA190622 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0315 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Interview with President Daniel Ortega following meeting with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo on 19 January; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Ortega] The Sandinist government hopes that the U.S. Congress will not vote any funds for the mercenary forces in Nicaragua. We can say that tomorrow, due to a decree, the state of emergency will be lifted and the special tribunals will be suspended. This will be [words indistinct] today and will be publicized tomorrow.

I can also say that we are prepared to put the amnesty into effect as soon as the cease-fire becomes effective. As long as this cease-fire is not effective, we are willing to release the prisoners, if another country will receive them. We believe that [word indistinct] made with the U.S. Government to receive these prisoners, and so that they could be released immediately. As for the meeting to secure the cease-fire, we are in the best of positions to immediately carry out talks in Costa Rica with the participation of the Nicaraguans [words indistinct], Cardinal Obando y Bravo, and the contras. Thus, we believe it advisable to hold this meeting as soon as possible. Efforts are being made with President Arias to allow this meeting between Cardinal Obando y Bravo and the contras to be held in Costa Rica this Thursday.

Cardinal Obando y Bravo's response, which he is taking to this meeting—and which has been accepted by the Nicaraguan Government—is that meetings on securing a cease-fire will begin on 27 to 28 January. Since Cardinal Obando y Bravo will have to leave within the next few days [to go to Europe], perhaps on Friday, then the person representing Cardinal Obando y Bravo at the 27 and 28 January meeting would be Msgr Bosco Vivas. Therefore, we hope that the contras, as the representatives of the U.S. Government in this situation, will not raise any obstacles and will not try to impose any more conditions. This is because we are more than meeting the terms that had been set in the Dominican Republic and [words indistinct], when a proposal the cardinal made was not met, and which was discussed at the last minute [words indistinct].

Therefore, this is more than they had requested. There will be two Nicaraguans participating actively in these sessions—Mr Wischnewski, Mr [word indistinct], and the U.S. delegation represented by the contras. Msgr Bosco Vivas will act as mediator, since the cardinal will leave for Europe, possibly on Saturday. Therefore, we hope that the contras will not have any objections that would prevent them from working to achieve a cease-fire. What has been demonstrated here, once again, is Nicaragua's willingness to fulfill the agreements.

[Reporter] Mr. President, has your government reached the limit [words indistinct]?

[Ortega] Well, we have reached our limit because we have been complying with the Esquipulas agreement. This is all we can do.

[Reporter] Mr. President, does your government think that offering an amnesty while the war continues would mean that contras now held prisoner could return to the armed struggle? Is your government not afraid that an eventual transfer to U.S. territory of contras now held prisoner could mean [words indistinct]?

[Ortega] In such a case, the United States would naturally be responsible for sending them to fight elsewhere. [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Apparently, the contras now demand [words indistinct].

[Ortega] (?It is worthwhile mentioning) that in the Esquipulas document, and in the one that we recently discussed in Costa Rica [words indistinct], because it mentioned a cease-fire agreement only [words indistinct] for them to lay down their arms, to sign an amnesty agreement, and [words indistinct] to participate in the political dialogue.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]. I understood you to mean that the state of emergency (?would be suspended). Do you plan to [words indistinct]?

[Ortega] I announced it on Saturday. The National Assembly is in recess right now. Otherwise, the National Assembly would discuss this decree. I announced this decree on Saturday, and I will formalize it tomorrow.

[Reporter] Would approval of this decree then [words indistinct]?

[Ortega] Naturally. Approval by the National Assembly means [words indistinct]. We will continue defending the country and implementing all those measures necessary for the good of the nation.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Ortega] I feel optimistic at this time, and I would rather believe that no more blood will be shed. But if more is shed, then we will see. This is not a political dialogue; these are talks. This is how it is described in the document; the word dialogue was not even used. These are talks for a cease-fire agreement, so that the contras can lay down their arms, seek protection in an amnesty with all the guarantees we can offer them, and participate in the public life of the nation. This is what the Nicaraguan people, a people who trust this government and themselves, expect. This also constitutes proof of the strength of the Nicaraguan revolution.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the five political leaders who met with the contras in Guatemala will be detained, as were those who were arrested the day before yesterday?

[Ortega] The individuals who were detained the day before yesterday were released this morning. [Words indistinct] met with the contras, which is a crime. For this reason, their attention was called to the fact that these activities are illegal. [Words indistinct] would have been detained due to their meeting the contras in Guatemala. There can be no exceptions to the application of the law here in Nicaragua, for the law can be applied to anyone, regardless of the nature of his actions.

[Reporter] Will the request for a new television station be approved?

[Ortega] There is a state television system in this country. This is not up for discussion. We do guarantee, however, the various political sectors access to this media. [Words indistinct]

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Ortega] You can listen to whatever song you want [words indistinct] independent. There are other newscasts whose directors are making good money with the contras. These individuals [words indistinct] work with the contras. [Words indistinct]

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Ortega] If they are willing to file a request that follows the legal requirements, then they can be opened.

RN Leader Ferrey Rejects Ortega Peace Plan

PA170412 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 0126 GMT 17 Jan 88

["Excerpt" of "exclusive" interview with Azucena Ferrey, member of the RN in the United States, by unidentified reporter in San Jose—live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] This is the first reaction of the rebel leadership to the proposals by dictator Daniel Ortega. Let us listen:

[Ferrey] First of all, I do not find anything new. Ortega speaks of amnesty, but he makes it contingent upon reaching a cease-fire. However, the only acceptable thing that I find is that he himself admits that a cease-fire (?is) linked to political factors. Daniel Ortega has refused to admit this, but he has (?publicly) done so today. That has been our [word indistinct]. In addition to making agreement on a cease-fire contingent upon [words indistinct] the biased judges who have sought to carry out Sandinist justice inside Nicaragua. Therefore, the amnesty that he is currently offering does not comply with Esquipulas II.

Second, he spoke of lifting the state of emergency throughout the country. However, we Nicaraguans know perfectly well that the repressive decrees will remain in force in Nicaragua. Thus, lifting the state of emergency [words indistinct] the offer by the Managua regime to repeal decrees such as Decree No 1,074. This measure concerns the maintenance of public order and has been employed against all persons who disagree with the Sandinist regime's political, economic, and social leadership. Moreover, (?one point) refers to the stand we adopted in the Dominican Republic. We stated that we (?did not accept) foreigners because (?we ourselves) had to find a solution to Nicaragua's problems. That is why Ortega said that a mixed delegation of the Sandinist regime will be established, so as to begin the negotiations under the premise that a cease-fire will be reached.

As for this matter, I would like to recall that we recently received and accepted the initiative of the domestic civic opposition, the Ramiro Sacasa Democratic Coordinating Board. The initiative called for (?bipartite) talks among Nicaraguans entailing (?discussions on) Nicaragua's problems. This is because I would dare say that on a Central America level, Esquipulas II was unable to achieve the goals agreed upon on on 7 August 1987. We truly believe that the talks among the Managua regime,

the CDN, and other political delegations—such as the signatories to the documents known as [word indistinct]—must lead to a discussion to solve Nicaragua's problems. These problems are claiming the lives of thousands of our youths every day—causing despair in every Nicaraguan family—and destabilizing peace in Central America.

[Reporter] Ferrey, Daniel Ortega makes the amnesty contingent upon a cease-fire—if there is a cease-fire—and the integration of the rebel forces into the political process.

[Ferrey] What Daniel Ortega is truly proposing is a surrender. He wants to win the war without firing a single shot. He needs to do that desperately because [words indistinct] Roger Miranda. He also knows the soldiers are totally disenchanted with the political decisions of the top FSLN leaders. Logically, the will of the Nicaraguan people, as represented by the RN and especially by the fighters for the freedom and liberation of our people, unconditionally endorses a struggle to force Daniel Ortega to comply with all the signed agreements, and with the new deadline that the Central American presidents are tacitly imposing.

As I said before, although it is said that compliance must take place immediately, Daniel Ortega is delaying matters. Therefore, he is speaking of imposing conditions on the amnesty. He is trying to say that once we lay down our arms and rejoin the civic struggle, we will be able to begin a specific dialogue for agreement and democratization. Consequently, he is simply calling for a surrender. Logically, he will never get the RN to do this. I would dare say that the Nicaraguan civic struggle will not surrender either, although he is offering [words indistinct]. This is the case for the announcement of municipal elections.

However, he did not mention an immediate date for municipal elections. Ortega thus seems to be trying to implement a democratization process while leaving the decision in the hands of the National Assembly. We all know that the National Assembly has a pro-Sandinist majority. Logically, it will try to [words indistinct] this process, and will delay it until 1990.

Calero on 'Unacceptable' Point

PA191454 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Report by Rafael Mojica Obregon in Miami; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Dr Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, a director of the RN, has issued statements in Miami analyzing the summit of Central American presidents, which included the participation of President Daniel Ortega Saavedra. Dr Adolfo Calero Portocarrero stated:

[Begin Calero recording] The presidents came to a conclusion that was stated in a joint declaration [words indistinct] immediate and unconditional implementation of all points of the Esquipulas agreement. Immediately afterward, Mr Ortega presented a proposal and issued statements that violate the agreement he had just signed a few hours earlier. My immediate reaction is that Ortega cannot fulfill, or does not wish to fulfill, the Esquipulas accords. [end recording]

Dr Adolfo Calero Portocarrero also denounced the conditions Ortega imposed on the implementation of the Esquipulas II agreement and the agreement signed Saturday in San Jose, Costa Rica.

[Begin recording] [Calero] For example, Ortega said that the amnesty would only be issued if there is a cease-fire, or following a cease-fire and after there is a surrender. He added that if there is no cease-fire, then the prisoners would be sent into exile—to other countries, but not Central American nations—and he insinuated that they could go to the United States. This is an unacceptable condition.

[Reporter] Dr Calero, do you believe that Daniel Ortega's attitude is the result of guidelines established with Fidel Castro in Havana and Gorbachev in Moscow?

[Calero] Well, I don't think this attitude was outlined by Gorbachev or Fidel Castro, but rather by Lenin; and then it was reasserted by Stalin, Khrushchev, and their successors. These are Ortega's guidelines. [end recording]

TPA Case Transfers To Include Denby Case

PA182218 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2148 GMT 18 Jan 88

[By Bernardino Rodriguez]

[Text] The case of mercenary James Jordan Denby, who was being tried by the Anti-Somozist People's Tribunals [TPA], will be transferred to the common courts of the judicial branch. In the next few days it will be announced which court will hear the case against the U.S. mercenary.

In addition, the other cases being heard by the TPA will be transferred to the common courts, since there will no longer be a TPA.

Olympic Absence Due to 'Economic Situation'

PA190442 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Lausanne (Switzerland), 18 Jan (EFE)—The Nicaraguan Olympic Committee based its decision not to participate in the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games "on the country's economic situation resulting from the war" of aggression.

A letter sent by Moises Hassan Morales, president of the Nicaraguan Olympic Committee, to Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, notes:

"For the past 7 years, our country has suffered terribly due to a war of aggression launched against us by the hegemonic power of the region. This war has forced us to invest great amounts of money in the country's defense, and has forced our youth to go to the battlefield while leaving sports and practicing behind."

Hassan Morales' letter adds: "We are passing through a critical period, and our sporting record does not display the required criteria. The sport we are best in is baseball, but it was not part of the Olympic Games, and our best pitcher was disqualified for the supposed use of forbidden substances at the Pan-American Games."

Morales then said: "Following an in-depth study of our country's present situation, we must, with deep regret, reject the honor of participating in the XXIV Olympic Games in Seoul."

Panama

New Amnesty Law Permits Some Media To Reopen

PA160100 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2341 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Law No 2, which was issued on 5 January 1988 and grants amnesty for the commission of certain political crimes, was promulgated by GAZETA OFICIAL today.

The aforementioned law is signed by Alberto Aleman Boyd, president of the Legislative Assembly; Erasmo Pinilla, secretary of the Legislative Assembly; and Rodolfo Chiari De Leon, Panamanian minister of government and justice. The law was also approved by Eric Arturo Delvalle, president of Panama.

The amnesty law cancels the measures and orders adopted in the investigations conducted during the indictment process that led to the closure of certain newspapers and radio stations.

This afternoon, several directors of the newspaper LA PRENSA went to the paper's facilities, but they were not allowed inside. This is because according to the law, public prosecutors' office No 7 should first give instructions on this, since it is responsible for the custody of media installations.

The media closed since July 1987 could open any time after the aforementioned formalities are completed.

U.S. Journalist Said Prevented From Entering

PA181611 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1515 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Panama City, 18 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—A U.S. Embassy spokesman reported here today that MIAMI HERALD correspondent Sam Dillon was not allowed to enter the country Sunday night following his arrival at Omar Torrijos Airport.

The source added that no further details on Dillon's situation were available at this time. The source also noted that at present, it is not known if Dillon has been forced to return to the United States or if he is still at the airport in Panama City.

Dillon arrived last night in Panama on a Pan Am flight.

The source said THE MIAMI HERALD reporter could be in the same situation that WASHINGTON POST correspondent Julia Preston found herself in. She was also banned from entering the country 1 week ago, and was then sent in an airplane to Miami.

One of Dillon's friends, who does not wish to be identified, told ACAN-EFE today that she observed Dillon last night through the glass door at the customs office when he arrived to pick up his luggage. A person she could not identify reportedly approached Dillon, spoke with him, and then led him to another room at the airport.

Dillon's friend, who went to the airport to pick him up at the request of Dillon's wife, explained that she has not seen the reporter again, and that after looking into the matter, she has not been able to locate him. [passage omitted]

Dillon Returns to Miami

PA181901 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1815 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Panama City, 18 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—MIAMI HERALD correspondent Sam Dillon returned to the United States this morning after Panamanian authorities prohibited his entry into Panama, according to U.S. Embassy sources in Panama City.

Dillon was not allowed to enter the country on Sunday night following his arrival from Miami at Omar Torrijos Airport. He then returned to Miami this morning at 1200 GMT, the U.S. Embassy source added.

U.S. Embassy spokesman Terence Kneebone stated he telephoned THE MIAMI HERALD this morning, and was told that Dillon was already in Miami. However, Kneebone said he had no further details on the incident. [passage omitted]

Argentina

Rico Arrest, Ongoing Army Situation Reported

Rico Held 'In Contempt'

PY151255 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1225 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Jan (TELAM)—According to military sources, Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico is being described as a fugitive from justice, meaning that he is in contempt of a military court. In addition to the issuance of an arrest warrant, this involves a possibility that he could be discharged from the Army immediately.

Elsewhere, it could be learned at the Defense Ministry that Minister of Defense Horacio Juanarena reported Rico's escape to the president of the Republic at about 0820.

Relieving of Officers Denied

PY151248 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1231 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Jan (TELAM)—The Army Staff Headquarters released a communique just after 0900 in which it denies that any unit commanders have been relieved.

The document states:

As for press reports concerning Army unit commanders allegedly being relieved, and with the purpose of clarifying the said information, the Army General Staff informs the public of the following:

1. Lieutenant Colonel Osvaldo Hector Repetto, commander of the 121st Armored Cavalry Explorers Unit based in Gualeguaychu, Entre Rios Province, requested to retire before the situation that emerged in the past few hours was known. The deputy commander is now commander of the unit.

2. Lt Col Jorge Magnelli, commander of the 7th Infantry Regiment based in Arana, Buenos Aires Province, is currently on vacation.

3. Major D. Ernesto Jose Arce, deputy commander of the 101st Combat Engineers Battalion based in San Nicolas, Buenos Aires Province, has been relieved and is at battalion headquarters.

The communique is signed by Colonel Julio Oura, who is in charge of the Press Department of the Army.

Caridi Briefs Defense Minister

PY151311 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1255 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Jan (NA)—Minister of Defense Horacio Juanarena met this morning at 0745 [1045 GMT] with General Dante Caridi, Army chief of staff, who informed him of the progress of the military events that have taken place over the past few hours.

Afterward, Juanarena met with Secretary of Defense Raul Alconada Sempe. The two officials then went to their respective offices.

Juanarena is in "permanent" contact with Caridi via a special telephone line through which the Army chief of staff keeps the minister informed of updated information concerning the events taking place in the area of Campo de Mayo, which is being approached by a column of tanks from Magdalena.

Army Staff Issues Communique

PY151452 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1415 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Jan (NA)—The Army General Staff this morning released, through the Defense Ministry, a communique "referring to prosecution that is being pursued due to the Holy Week uprising."

The communique reads as follows:

"As is known to the public, the Army General Staff states:

"1. By virtue of the ruling of the 22d Military Court, the secretary of that court traveled to where Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico is serving his detention sentence, to inform him of the change in venue in terms of where he will have to serve his sentence. The secretary could not locate the lieutenant colonel to convey the information to him.

"2. Accordingly, the officer has violated his preventive arrest, which forces us to presume that he has escaped. If this is the case, the military judge will declare him to be in a state of rebellion and then request his arrest. The military judge will also suggest that the minister of defense relieve Lt Col Rico from the Army.

"3. As a consequence of the stand adopted by the accused military officer, his situation has been seriously aggravated by the ostensible violation of military regulations.

"This type of conduct demonstrates the true goal of the group and their complete disregard for current laws and authority, a disregard which they have attempted to conceal under alleged institutional actions.

"This conduct also exposes messianic and selfish undertones, which are incompatible with the nation's institutional system.

"4. The situation prevailing in the Army is completely normal. The Army is following the orders issued by the Army chief of staff through the chain of command."

The communique is signed by Colonel Miguel Enrique Chichizola, director of staff institutional affairs of the Army.

Jaunarena on Army Situation

PY151651 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Jan (NA)—Minister of Defense Horacio Jaunarena has stated that the crisis within the Army has been overcome. He added that "the situation is absolutely normal in the garrisons," and "there is no split within the Army's commands." He also termed the episode marking the escape of Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico as "regrettable."

Jaunarena made these remarks upon leaving Government House following a meeting with President Raul Alfonsin.

The minister of defense added that "the situation is absolutely normal, and I have come to tell the president about this. Based on this condition of normality within the Army, the president left for his Olivos Residence to resume his regular activities."

Jaunarena stated that Rico has "at this moment practically been [words indistinct] serving his reduced preventive arrest, so he must be somewhere."

He added: "Legally, if the judge declares Rico to be in a state of rebellion, the minister of defense must then discharge him from the Army."

He additionally noted that "since the judge was unable to convey the report to Lt Col Rico, the judge will declare the lieutenant colonel to be in a state of rebellion."

Jaunarena denied reports that Rico may have been wounded and taken to the military hospital. He indicated that "the forces that support their immediate commanders have not fired a single shot either all day yesterday or today." This removes the Army from any involvement in the presumed shootout.

He declared that Rico "has no support at all. Army units are operating completely normally, and no order has been given to repress [him]. A judge went to summon him, but he has disappeared from the place where he was supposed to be."

He continued by saying that the "situation in the entire Army is absolutely normal."

As for the officers who accompanied Rico, the minister stated that "those who are involved in some sort of violation will be tried in accordance with military regulations."

Jaunarena added that "the military situation is normal. A man who was supposed to have reported before the court did not do so, so appropriate measures will be taken to make this individual appear in court."

He said: "This is the true situation of the episode. It involves a very small group of civilians and military personnel. This is the truth of the situation."

Roads to Capital Controlled

PY151736 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1656 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Jan (DYN)—Reliable sources have stated that the Federal Police by noon today had acquired full control of all roads leading to the capital.

The operation, which was ordered by the chief of police, includes control of all crossings on General Paz Avenue, as well as all bridges over the El Riachuelo.

The presence of police at these locations aims at preventing Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico and other military officers accompanying him from entering Buenos Aires.

Close friends of the rebellious military officer today reported that Rico was injured last night. They did not indicate, however, the circumstances in which he was injured. It is being said that he may be taken to the military hospital in the Palermo metropolitan district to receive medical care.

Rico Said Slightly Wounded

PY151943 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1825 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 15 Jan (NA)—Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico may have been wounded during an alleged attack carried out at dawn today at the "Los Fresnos" Country Club in Bella Vista, Buenos Aires Province. Rico's wife Nelida Crocco disclosed this information during an impromptu news conference held at the aforementioned country club.

Rico's wife asserted that he "had been transferred to another site for reasons of security since an attack was carried out against the house and against him. He was wounded, althought I do not know exactly where. All I know is that this happened at 0400."

While giving a confused explanation of what had taken place, Nelida Crocco also disclosed that her husband is currently staying at a private home, but she did not say where.

Rico's wife stated that she "could not disclose any details" because "I was not here when all this happened."

She then added that "I know he is not seriously wounded" and "I know that they might take him to the military hospital," but also noted that she did not know who could take him there. [passage omitted]

Judge Orders Rico Arrest

PY152132 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2115 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Jan (NA)—Military Judge Hugo Beltramino today ordered Minister of Interior Enrique Nosiglia to arrest Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico, who is now a fugitive wanted by the military court, the Defense Ministry has officially reported.

A Defense Ministry spokesman added that federal and provincial policemen will therefore now be hunting for Rico.

Asked about reports that Rico may have already been discharged [from the Army], the spokesman replied: "It is possible, for his discharge is envisaged."

Proclamation Reportedly Read

PY160012 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2305 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Jan (NA)—Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico, who is wanted by a military court, today read a clandestine proclamation that harshly criticized the government and General Jose Caridi, the Army chief of staff. Rico read this proclamation to an Argentine cameraman who works for an international television network.

Press sources reported that the cameraman was first blindfolded and then taken to an unidentified location where Rico, dressed in a combat uniform, read the communique to him.

Judge Says No Arrests Made

PY160220 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0051 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 15 Jan (NA)—San Isidro Federal Judge Pablo Quiroga tonight said that "no one has been arrested" in connection with the Rico affair. Prosecutor Santiago Blanco for his part stated that "it is not certain" that Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico was wounded early this morning.

Blanco told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that "there were three bullet holes in the front wall of the room occupied by Rico, but these holes do not necessarily indicate that an attack took place."

Judge Quiroga said that during the search he conducted of the Los Fresnos Country Club, where Rico was staying, he did not find any "armed persons." Thus, "no arrests were made." [passage omitted]

Army Explains Actions

PY160252 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0200 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Jan (TELAM)—The Army chief of staff issued the following communique at 2240 this evening:

In light of the events that are known to the public, the Army General Staff hereby informs the people that:

1. In recent hours, the Argentine Army has taken steps to consolidate discipline within the institution in the face of actions taken by military personnel that violate essential Army regulations.

2. In this respect, it should be noted that Army personnel have responded to their commanding officers, totally convinced that they must comply with their specific duties.

3. The Army has taken all these actions in compliance with the law and exerting the powers bestowed upon it by the national government.

4. Faced with the need to rapidly find a solution to this problem, a military court has expeditiously and correctly taken the necessary measures.

5. All measures and orders are the result of the need to end the irresponsible attitude of those who purport to speak for an important portion of the Army, but who only distort genuine sentiments and employ them for their own personal and sectorial interests.

6. Attitudes such as the show of arms and threatening declarations to the news media shattered the tranquillity of the population and negatively affected the image of the institution, which rejects such proceedings since they are not part of their deepest convictions.

7. Also, the seeming acceptance of dispositions of military justice, as conveyed to the media by the self-proclaimed spokesman for Lieutenant Colonel Rico, has been disproven by Rico's escape. This, along with the intervention of persons who do not belong in the Army, has made evident the existence of intentions that are foreign to the Army.

8. Finally, the Argentine Army abides by the principles of behavior of General San Martin. These marked its origin and remain alive in the spirit of all Army personnel.

Those who adopt attitudes that do not respect such values do not deserve to be part of the Army, and will be inexorably separated from it.

The communique is signed by Colonel Miguel Enrique Chichizola, director of institutional affairs of the Army.

Jaunarena Says Rico Discharged

PY160238 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0229 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Jan (DYN)—Minister of Defense Horacio Jaunarena confirmed tonight that under the military code, Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico was "automatically discharged from the Army" upon being declared in rebellion. He stated that the discharge could be reconsidered only if Rico can demonstrate that he could not report to the military court as ordered for reasons beyond his control.

Minister Jaunarena commented that Aldo Rico cannot be located in any military unit, and that he expects Rico to be arrested again soon.

Further Juanarena Remarks

PY161448 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1135 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Jan (NA)—Defense Minister Horacio Juanarena thinks that if former Lieutenant [as received] Aldo Rico has been injured, his bodyguards are to blame. In Juanarena's opinion, Rico's surrender would be important for the country. Juanarena has confirmed that Lieutenant Colonel Enrique Venturino has also been indicted in the same case, involving the Easter Week military crisis.

Briefly summarizing the tense situation experienced last Thursday, the defense minister said: "Twenty-four hours ago, two sectors of the Army were pitted against each other; now the only sector that remains is the one that obeys its regular chain of command. Off by himself is a former oficer who is a fugitive from justice."

Juanarena reasserted that complete normalcy and calmness prevail in all Army units and that Rico was discharged [from the Army] upon being declared in a state of rebellion by military Judge Hugo Beltramino after Rico escaped from a country club in Bella Vista.

In a news conference held last night in his office, the defense minister expressed his gratitude for the "maturity of the people," who never "were concerned" over the events.

"I deeply regret Rico's attitude because these episodes seriously hurt the country and the democratic system," Juanarena emphasized.

Juanarena then added that "Rico would do a great favor to the country if he observes the law," regarding the possibility that the former military officer would surrender voluntarily.

Juanarena confirmed that Lt Col Enrique Venturino is also involved in the same indictment involving Rico as a result of the Easter Week rebellion and announced that the judge "will summon Venturino to testify."

Juanarena then denied that Aldo Rico is now at some military unit, confirming Rico's status as "fugitive from justice." The defense minister said that he does not know if Rico has been injured.

Nevertheless, Juanarena added that "if Rico has been injured, the shots were fired by his own bodyguards," because "no Army personnel or security force has been involved in armed clashes in the past few hours."

"Only those who were very close to him could have fired," Juanarena emphasized.

After reassuring reporters that "the chain of command is operating normally," the defense minister said that "we are restoring discipline in the Army."

Juanarena then denied that any unit commanders or officers have been indicted as a result of the events that have occurred in the military sector in the past few days.

"I would not dare to say that Rico has been cornered. However, I am optimistic about a prompt solution in this case," Juanarena said.

In remarks made yesterday on leaving Goverment House, the defense minister said that "the situation is normal in the garrisons," claiming that "the problem in the Army had been overcome."

Alfonsin Views Rico Affair

PY180914 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Jan (NA)—According to Presidential Spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez, President Raul Alfonsin feels that former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico is a "military man on the run." Lopez made a statement at the end of a meeting that the president of the nation held with Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena; Public Works and Services Minister Pedro Trucco; Under Secretary Raul Alconada Sempe; and the chairman of the Radical Civic Union national convention, Conrado Storani.

Lopez said that as far as Alfonsin is concerned, the situation in the Army is "normal" and the events surrounding the Rico affair "are a mere police matter."

Lopez added that "there is nothing to justify" postponing the president's trip to Sweden, and the "military situation is unlikely to prompt meetings with leaders of political parties," because "the Interior Ministry is in permanent contact with provincial governors and leaders" of other political parties. Lopez indicated that the presidential agenda for Monday the 18th is not to be changed.

Lopez reported that Alfonsin today received a telephone call from Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille when the latter arrived from the United States, where he met with representatives of the IMF and the creditor banks.

The presidential spokesman described the talks of the Argentine delegation as "satisfactory" because they attained objectives related to "short-term financing," and some progress was made regarding the long-term financing of the foreign debt.

Lopez said the president will stay "with his family" at the Olivos Residence over the weekend, and the economy minister has decided to travel to Pinamar, a sea resort, "today."

Speaking to the press at the end of his meeting with Alfonsin, Conrado Storani said the military situation is "absolutely normal." He stressed that "President Alfonsin's mood is excellent" and the situation arising from the Rico affair "is under contro,l" having become "a mere police matter."

Speaking about the meeting at the Olivos Residence, the presidential spokesman said it was just "a formal greeting."

The president began working at 0800, and the officials began to arrive 1 hour later.

Jaunarena left the meeting to hold another meeting at the Defense Ministry with General Jose Dante Caridi, chief of staff of the Army, in order to evaluate the status quo of the Rico affair.

Ministry Examining Rico Message

PY170418 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0345 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Jan [date as received] (DYN)—This is the text of a radiogram that Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico may have sent to Army units. The Defense Ministry is examining it to establish its authenticity:

Taking into account the objectives of Operation Dignity, namely: 1) a political solution to the aftermath of the war against subversion, 2) an end to the campaign to damage the prestige of the Armed Forces, and 3) the recovery of the dignity and unity of the Argentine Army, and in view of the Army Joint Staff commander's nonfulfillment of the commitments he assumed, thus displaying misconduct, military dishonor, moral coercion, corruption, and illegitimacy of command by leading the Army to an internal confrontation, which is endangering the stability of the system, internal peace, and national defense—I establish as of today my command post in this unit, to continue Operation Dignity until it attains its objectives.

[Dated] 4th Infantry Regiment, Monte Caseros, Corrientes, 17 January 1988

[Signed] Aldo Rico, lieutenant colonel

Army Denies Rico Sent Message

PY170624 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0600 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] In a communique released at 0200 this morning, the Army General Staff denied press reports that former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico had disseminated a proclamation over the Army's communications system.

The following is the text of the communique:

The Army General Staff hereby denies press reports that the former officer who is now wanted by the courts disseminated a proclamation over the Army's official communications system.

The communique is signed by Colonel Miguel Enrique Chichizola, director for institutional affairs.

4th Infantry Head Supports Rico

PY170434 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0405 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Jan (DYN)—Lieutenant Colonel Hector Alvarez Igarzabal, commander of the 4th Infantry Regiment of Monte Caseros, Corrientes Province, tonight released a radiogram in support of Lt Col Aldo Rico, thus implicitly disregarding the authority of General Jose Caridi, chief of the Army Joint Staff.

The radiogram, which is being examined tonight by the highest levels of the Army and government, reads as follows:

To all units and organizations of the Army: I inform you that I am adhering to Operation Dignity. I justify my decision on the basis of the need for the Army: 1) to avoid internal confrontations, particularly among different services of the Armed Forces, as is now happening in an attempt to suppress Army forces; 2) to effectively defend the Holy Week banners, which the chief of the Army Joint Staff publicly supported; 3) to display its true image, which is now being distorted in various ways, thus eliciting criticism and disdain from a misinformed public; 4) to be subject to the Constitution and laws of the nation, not to the whims of the governing party, which should respect the independence of the military court to judge personnel responsible for the Holy Week events; and 5) to rally behind the traditional ideals that

are common to all soldiers—such as love of the fatherland and devotion to service—and which entitle them to the appreciation and respect of their fellow citizens.

[Signed] Hector Alvarez Igarzabal, lieutenant colonel, commander of the 4th Infantry Regiment

Army Preparing 'To Retake' Unit

PY170516 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0445 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Jan (NA)—The Army General Staff early this morning released the following communique:

"The Army General Staff hereby informs the public that:

"1. Former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico, who is wanted by a military court, and some of his followers on the afternoon of 16 January occupied the 4th Regiment of Monte Caseros (Corrientes Province).

"2. The II Corps (12th Infantry Brigade, 3d Infantry Brigade, and 2d Armored Brigade) is preparing to begin to march to retake the aforementioned military facilities and to capture the rebels.

"3. All other military units are carrying out the activities ordered by the Army General Staff in an atmosphere of absolute normalcy.

"4. As has been stated in several communiques, it is hereby reaffirmed that the Army will continue to take all necessary measures to consolidate discipline and cohesion within the institution, and to eliminate any individual who may attempt to disrupt it.

"Signed: Colonel Miguel Enrique Chichizola, director of institutional affairs of the Army."

Engineering Company Head Cited

PY171150 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1115 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Jan (DYN)—The chief of the 3d Engineering Company of Monte Caseros this morning announced that he has decided to join the rebellion headed by former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico in the 4th Infantry Regiment of this city.

The chief of that engineering unit, Major Damico, released a radiogram, which he said was sent through the military network, to all Army units. However, the Army doubts he was able to do this because the rebels do not have access to that vital communications network.

The alleged radiogram was sent to Buenos Aires from Corrientes by telephone. Damico said in the message that "the agreement reached in the Holy Week event should be fulfilled and the Army chief of staff himself has reiterated this on several occasions."

Damico also said that "unnecessary confrontations between Army forces should be avoided; they only serve to help our enemies and opponents destroy us." Further, "the Argentine Army should not be the target of a psychological action aimed at distorting its image before the people." Damico called "for respect for the independence of military justice with regard to judging all the people involved in the Holy Week event."

Troop Movement Confirmed

PY171231 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1226 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Jan (NA)—The Defense Ministry at 0900 released the following communique:

"The Defense Ministry reports that on the night of 16 January the 4th Infantry Regiment of Monte Caseros was taken over by Aldo Rico. Early this morning the II Corps complied with orders from the Army General Staff to move its units toward Monte Caseros. The units moving toward Monte Caseros are the 2d Armored Brigade of Parana, the 12th Infantry Brigade of Misiones, and the 3d Infantry Brigade of Curuzu Cuatia."

Communique on Rebels Issued

PY171740 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1526 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Jan (DYN)—The Army today said that it does not accept the claim that "a small group, not representing anyone. could jeopardize the cohesion of the force and the security of the nation's institutional life." The document also says that if an armed confrontation with the rebels, headed by former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico occurs, it will be done "with the moral support of the Argentine people who gave the Army the right to use their weapons to defend the genuine interests of the nation."

The Army also says that Rico and his supporters have a sort of messianic ideological concept which is "in complete disagreement with the genuine feelings of Argentine society."

In a 9-point communique, released at noon today, the Army General Staff said that "the force, through all its members, will act with the highest decision and utmost firmness without disregarding the possibility of an armed confrontation, but with the conviction that it will engage in such a confrontation not only exercising legal norms but also with the moral support of the Argentine people."

This is the text of the communique:

"As a result of the current events which are well known by the people, the Army General Staff would like to inform the people:

"1. The Argentine Army has been conducting activities aimed at consolidating discipline in the face of the possibility that former Lt Col Rico could take actions violating the law and disturbing the normal activities of the institution and of Argentine society.

"2. Military justice acted with promptness and independence in the legal proceedings respecting the rules within the framework of the current laws of the institution in the Republic.

"3. Despite this procedure, the attitude of the fugitive and former officer and of a group of followers clearly violates the laws which rule the nation's institutional life with complete disregard for the damage that could be caused to society and the image of the country.

"4. Late last night, former Lt Col Rico and his supporters conducted a mutiny in open opposition to the majority of the Army which responded with authentic conviction to their natural commands.

"5. By illegally taking over the command of a military unit, which is the second time they have committed this crime, they have clearly shown their will to act violently to achieve their objectives, which they themselves have distorted, to convert those objectives in line with the subordinate interest of a sector and the personal ambitions of the participants.

"6. They did not hesitate to violate the oath to respect the precepts of our national Constitution which shows that they are also willing to violate ethical and moral principles which guide the conduct and honor of the real Argentine soldiers.

"7. That contempt for our Constitution reveals that their real intentions go beyond institutional interests and indicates a messianic ideological concept which is in complete disagreement with the genuine feelings of Argentine society.

"8. The Argentine Army does not accept the fact that a small group, not representing anyone, could jeopardize the cohesion of the force and the security of the nation's institutional life.

"Therefore, the Army will continue to carry out all necessary measures, even drastic ones, to reestablish order.

"The Army members are clearly convinced that by faithfully fulfilling their mission they will attain the basic goal of preserving the high interest of the institution and preserve the peace and the republican regime.

"9. The force, through all its members, will act with their highest decision and utmost firmness without disregarding the possibility of an armed confrontation, but with the conviction that it will engage in such a confrontation not only exercising legal norms, but also with the moral support of the Argentine people who gave us the right to use their weapons to defend the genuine interests of the nation and the profound feelings of its society."

Caridi to Lead Confrontation

PY171955 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1939 GMT 17 Jan 88

[By special DYN correspondent]

[Text] Monte Caseros, 17 Jan (DYN)—Army Chief of Staff General Jose Dante Caridi this afternoon placed himself at the head of the troops that will confront the rebel troops entrenched within the local garrison.

Caridi traveled from Buenos Aires on board an Army plane that took off from the metropolitan airport at 1430 [1730 GMT].

The plane did not land at the Monte Caseros airstrip, which has a limited use. It reportedly landed either at Paso de los Libres or at Curuzu Cuatia, where Caridi met with General Juan Mebragana, II Corps commander. Caridi then placed himself at the head of the troops that will confront the rebels.

Las Lajas Rebellion Quelled

PY172010 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1939 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Jan (DYN)—Officers loyal to Army Chief of Staff Jose Caridi today overcame two rebellion attempts staged by the 21st Mountain Infantry Regiment based in Las Lajas, Neuquen, and the 35th Infantry Regiment based in Rospentek, Santa Cruz.

There was reportedly an armed confrontation with the regiment based in Las Lajas. This afternoon, however, the situation was under the control of the unit chief, who is obeying the orders of the IV Army commander.

A high-ranking military officer said: "I was told there has been a shoot- out. However, the unit chief was able to control the rebellion with the assistance of his own troops."

Some officers also attempted to rebel in support of Aldo Rico in Rospentek, but loyal troops soon overcame the attempt.

It has not been reported, however, whether the troops had to resort to arms to suppress the mutiny in Rospentek.

13 Arrested in Las Lajas

PY172300 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2245 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Jan (DYN)—The aborted rebellion in the 21st Mountain Infantry Regiment, based in the town of Las Lajas, located in the Andean foothills of

Neuquen Province, resulted in the arrest of 13 officers, with ranks up to captain, who unconditionally surrendered to the regiment's commander after the attempt to get the unit to revolt in support of Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico had been smashed.

Reliable government sources have stated that all the arrested officers, who will be court-martialed, are in Army custody on the premises of the regiment.

The details of the action, which turned into a shoot-out, have not yet been released.

But on the basis of partial reports it has been learned that the rebels tried to take control of the regiment after deliberating in the officers club, but they were contained during a shoot-out and they surrendered to the unit's commander.

Presidential Spokesman Cited

PY172104 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2021 GMT 17 Jan 88

[News Conference by Presidential Spokesman Ignacio Lopez with unidentified journalists at Government House; date not given—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Question] ...in Neuquen?

[Lopez] No, we have heard of no other mutiny. There have been no difficulties reported in other regions.

[Question] Will Rico be given a deadline to end his rebellion?

[Lopez] [Passage indistinct] to be suppressed as soon as possible. We will use any means. We are defending what is right, and it is good to use all means to defend what is right. We cannot let this gentleman's preaching confuse us. He is attempting to use legal terms to explain something that is nothing more than a rebellion. He is an undisciplined officer who does not accept orders from his chief of staff, and who will soon disobey the orders of the president of the Republic. He is creating a situation that affects constitutional order. Therefore, taking into consideration the present situation, no deadline must be given. Order must be reestablished. The law and the Constitution must be respected.

[Question] [passage indistinct] to put an end to Rico's attitude?

[Lopez] I really cannot understand your question. Do you mean that we should give Rico 15 days to surrender? There is a rebellion against the order established by the Constitution. We must put an end to this situation right away. There can be no deadline. A deadline for what?

[Question] For Rico.

[Lopez] A deadline? We cannot negotiate with people who do not respect the laws, with criminals.

Air Force Chief Vows Support

PY172127 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2100 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 17 Jan (TELAM)—Air Force Chief of Staff Brigadier Ernesto Crespo has stressed that the Air Force is going to give General Caridi its full support to end the insubordination taking place in Monte Caseros, and he indicated that if there is an (institutional) breakdown then not only the Air Force but society as a whole will come out in defense of the democratic system.

He termed the situation in the Air Force normal and added that everything within the Navy is also normal. He stressed that a deterioration of the country's situation which could lead to a Lebanonization will be prevented.

Crespo made these remarks at the Defense Ministry at the end of the meeting with Defense Minister Jaunarena. [passage omitted]

He also stated that Jaunarena will meet again with the three chiefs of staff at 2100 [0000 GMT], and he repeated that the Air Force is going to fully support the Army's requirements.

Santa Cruz Activities Quelled

PY180013 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2355 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Jan (TELAM)—Army Staff Headquarters has released a communique reporting an undisciplined act in the 35th Mechanized Infantry Regiment, which is based in the city of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Province.

The communique states: On 17 January undisciplined acts occurred in the 35th Mechanized Infantry Regiment, which were overcome by the unit's commander. The activities of the regiment are now being carried out normally.

The communique is signed by Colonel Miguel Enrique Chichizola.

The regiment is located in the province of Santa Cruz, 15 km from the town of Rio Turbio.

Communique Cites 'Restraint'

PY180116 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0055 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Jan (TELAM)—The following is the text of a communique released by the Army General Staff:

[Words indistinct] That are being carried out by troops in the neighborhood of Monte Caseros to recover the military installations and capture the rebel group occupying them, the Army General Staff informs the public that all activities are being carried out with the greatest prudence and restraint—something that must not be confused with unjustified delays—in order to prevent harm to the civilian population, private property, and the zone's economic resources.

This is being done to reduce the risk to the community due to the [words indistinct] attitude of the rebels, who have placed explosives on bridges to interrupt communications and hidden in populated areas to prevent the loyal forces from carrying out their mission.

The communique is signed by Colonel Miguel Enrique Chichizola, director of institutional affairs.

19th Infantry Situation Reported

PY170209 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0140 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] San Miguel de Tucuman, 17 Jan (TELAM)—A confusing situation occurred tonight at the 19th Infantry Regiment, which is based in this city, when, according to unconfirmed reports, Lieutenant Colonel Angel Leon left his post in Buenos Aires and tried to take over the Tucuman garrison to express support for the rebel Aldo Rico.

Garrison sources confirmed that Leon asked the officers in command of the 19th Regiment for permission to enter the garrison, supposedly to avoid arrest.

His request was presumably accepted by Major Walter Jaime, the unit's deputy commander, who is in charge of the garrison because Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Farwig is away on vacation.

Leon this afternoon gave a news conference at the officers club of the 1st [as received] Regiment, where he handed out a document criticizing General Caridi, whom he termed unqualified to lead the Army.

Leon had been replaced as the regiment's commander because he supported Rico's Easter Weekend Campo de Mayo rebellion.

Defense Ministry Meeting Held

PY180305 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0240 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Jan (TELAM)—The Defense Ministry [words indistinct] communique:

An evaluation of the events that the country is experiencing, especially within the Army, and of the serious implications of lengthening the current situation that is affecting constitutional order, was made today at 2100 [0000 GMT] during a meeting in which the following persons participated: The defense minister, Defense Ministry secretaries, and the chiefs of staff of the threee branches of the Armed Forces.

Thus, the national executive branch has decided to prepare and enlist Navy, Air Force, and security units with the objective of supporting the operations that are being carried out by the Army to restore order within the service and to preserve the republic's institutions.

San Luis Garrison Officers Rebel

PY180316 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0255 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] San Luis, 17 Jan (TELAM)—Officers of the 161st Artillery Brigade, based in this capital, have declared themselves in rebellion. They have stressed that the unit's commander, Lieutenant Colonel Alberto Belochio, and its deputy commander, Major Alberto Camps, are under arrest inside the garrison.

The officers, who refused to identify themselves, have also stressed that the brigade is under the command of First Lieutenant Raul Concueva, who has apparently come out in support of the rebellion that is being headed by Aldo Rico in Corrientes Province. Meanwhile, it has been observed at the local airport that some security measures are being implemented. These measures are apparently related to the arrival of forces from the IV Corps, which is based in Santa Rosa, La Pampa Province. Troops from the IV Corps have been mobilized to retake the rebel unit.

San Luis Rebellion Quelled

PY181544 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1510 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] San Luis, 18 Jan (NA)—Lieutenant Colonel Hector Martinez, commander of the 8th Infantry Brigade headquartered in Mendoza, has confirmed that "the 161st Antiaircraft Artillery Group in San Luis, which had rebelled in support of Rico, has surrendered."

The officer said the recovery of the 161st Antiaircraft Artillery Group took place "without a single shot being fired" and that eight officers ranking from first to third lieutenant have been arrested and will be taken to the headquarters of the 8th Brigade in Mendoza.

Metropolitan Airport Occupied

PY181310 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1242 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 18 Jan—(DYN)—Approximately 100 Border Police personnel carrying light automatic weapons have cordoned off the main premises of the Jorge Newbery Metropolitan Airport.

The civilian part of the airport is occupied by approximately 20 persons wearing Army fatigues and black berets. They claim to support former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico.

As for the military base of the Jorge Newbery Airport, it was taken over at 0700 [1000 GMT] by a group of Air Force personnel who also claim to follow Rico. [passage omitted]

The flight control room of the airport was occupied by five persons dressed in Army uniforms.

It has been learned that some flights may be allowed to depart so the people currently at the airport awaiting their flights can leave.

Further on Airport Takeover

PY181355 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1336 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 31 Jul [as received] (NA)—The rebels occupying Jorge Newbery Metropolitan Airport have ordered civilian personnel of the airport to leave the area, especially part of the first floor.

The leader of the rebels is Colonel Fernando Estrella, retired, a sworn enemy of Ernesto Crespo, the current Air Force chief of staff. It is assumed that other retired Air Force officers are involved.

On the observation deck of the airport, ultra-rightist leader Oscar Castroge is haranguing the rebels at the top of his voice, but it is now known whether he is part of the operation or acting on his own.

Air Force Retakes Airport

PY181407 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1350 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jan (NA)—It has been learned at the Defense Ministry that shortly after 1040 [1340 GMT] the Air Force recovered control of the metropolitan airport, which had been taken over by a rebel commando group.

Airport To Reopen to Public

PY181816 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1757 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jan (NA)—At 1430 [1730 GMT] the Air Force released the following communique:

"In view of press reports that refer to dead and wounded during the operation to retake the control tower of the metropolitan airport, the Air Force General Staff reports that these stories are completely false, and it reiterates that the troops involved in the takeover are now under arrest.

"It is also announced that as of 1430 the airport will be opened normally to the public."

Soldiers Hurt by Rebel Mine

PY181345 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1318 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jan (TELAM)—The Army General Staff has issued a communique on the situation of the 29th Jungle Infantry Regiment soldiers who were wounded when an anti-tank mine detonated on the highway on which the loyal troops are advancing.

The text of the communique states that at approximately 0400 [0700 GMT] today a truck of the 29th Jungle Infantry Regiment that was going from Curuzu Cuatia to Monte Caseros ran over an anti-tank mine in Colonia Libertad, 16 km northeast of Monte Caseros. As a consequence of the mine, which was planted by personnel of the rebel 4th Infantry Regiment, a lieutenant and a sergeant were seriously wounded.

In referring to the wounded men the communique stated they were immediately taken to the main military hospital by a II Army Corps plane.

In the communique the General Staff stated that this confirms the irresponsible attitude of the rebels who seriously risk civilian lives and property by planting explosives on area roads.

Cabinet Meeting Held

PY181654 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 1629 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Relay from Government House by Gustavo Velazco]

[Text] The cabinet meeting has just ended. President Raul Alfonsin was fully informed about the events taking place in Corrientes Province, especially in Monte Caseros, as well as in other parts of the country.

The ministers heard a detailed report by the defense and interior ministers.

President Alfonsin expressed his deep gratitude to the Argentine citizens for their exemplary behavior in view of these developments and noted his gratitude to the various provincial governments, governors, intendants, and all officials who in one way or another are defending the Constitution.

It was decided at this cabinet meeting that a state of siege will not be declared for the time being.

We have also been officially informed that the president will not travel to the meeting of the Group of Six to be held in Sweden. He is sending a representative instead.

Right now, at about 1330, President Alfonsin is in contact with the Swedish prime minister to explain that he will not be able to attend the meeting and that he does not know whether he will [passage indistinct]

President Praises Army Command

PY181702 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1643 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez reported here today after the cabinet meeting that President Raul Alfonsin had praised the decisive attitude of the Army High Command, which has begun to put down the rebel outbreaks in Corrientes and Tucuman Provinces.

Army Communique on Clashes

PY181708 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1648 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jan (TELAM)—Shortly before 1330 the Army General Staff issued the following communique, signed by Colonel Miguel Enrique Chichizola, Army director for institutional affairs.

The following is the text:

1. This morning the group of rebels of the 161st Artillery Group headquartered in San Luis surrendered unconditionally in view of the actions by members of the IV Army Corps headed by its commander.

2. In the Monte Caseros operational zone, shortly before noon today loyal troops and rebels engaged in combat with an exchange of fire that led to the withdrawal of the rebels in the north as well as the south.

Rospentek Regiment Rebels

PY181848 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1723 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Rio Gallegos, Santa Cruz, 19 Jan (DYN)— The powerful 35th Mechanized Infantry Regiment, with headquarters at "Rospentek Ranch," 35 km northeast of Rio Turbio, is in rebellion, presumably in support of former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico.

Military and political sources, as well as provincial Minister of Government Jorge Sanz, confirmed this afternoon that a high-ranking official from the 11th Motorized Infantry Brigade, with headquarters in Rio Gallegos, reported the rebellion.

Rospentek's 35th Mechanized Infantry Regiment is a unit created after the climax of the conflict with Chile over the Beagle Channel at the beginning of 1979. The regiment is equipped with very modern armaments and has a large number of men. It is presumed, though, that the majority of the forces are on leave—at least the draftees, or common soldiers.

The regiment was formed in 1981 in Rospentek, a ranch that was confiscated by the government 2 decades ago together with the "Primavera" Ranch, where minor units are headquartered. Their position regarding the rebellion is unknown.

The Rio Gallegos 11th Infantry Brigade encompasses, apart from the 35th Regiment, the 24th Mechanized Infantry Regiment, with headquarters in Rio Gallegos and with the same firepower as the 35th regiment; the 131st Combat Engineering Battalion, also based in Rio Gallegos; and the Commander Luis Piedra Buena 11th Artillery Regiment, with headquarters 240 km north of Rio Gallegos. It is therefore also isolated from the other units of the 11th Brigade and linked only by road No 293, a provincial gravel road.

Rospentek Revolt Said Over

PY182016 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1950 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jan (NA)—Santa Cruz Province Minister of Government Jorge Sanz this afternoon reported that the 35th Rospentek Mechanized Infantry Regiment "is fully obeying the chain of command" and that it is under the command of its deputy commander, Mayor Allen.

This was confirmed by a delegation from the Rio Turbio Municipality that visited the regiment at the request of the province's minister of government to obtain a report on the unit's current situation. The uprising of the regiment had been reported at noon today by Sanz himself on the basis of reports from the 11th Brigade, based in Rio Gallegos.

The information was given by Sanz to ATC, Argentina Televisora Color.

Communique on Trial Issued

PY181849 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1813 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jan (TELAM)—A few minutes before 1500, the Army General Staff issued the following communique signed by Deputy Chief of Staff General Wenceslao Abbate.

The communique reads as follows:

Regarding reports published today on the writ presented by Auditor Captain Carlos Shafferstein in which he refers to alleged irregularities in the military trial against Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico and states that certain charges are null and void, the Army General Staff states:

1. That the writ is absolutely groundless and lacks any applicable legal basis.

2. That the writ has consequently been disregarded by the appropriate military authorities.

3. That the lieutenant colonel has been submitted to trial for abandoning his service.

19th Infantry Surrender Confirmed

PY181914 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1906 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jan (TELAM)—The Defense Ministry has officially confirmed that the rebels of the 19th Infantry Regiment, based in Tucuman City, have surrendered.

The rebels surrendered unconditionally.

4th Regiment Recovered

PY182044 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2038 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Resistencia, 18 Jan (TELAM)—Curuzu Cuatia mayor Abel Grela has told the media, including the correspondent of lt12 Radio General Madariaga, that Colonel Colotti, commander of the 3d Infantry Brigade (based in Curuzu Cuatia) has taken over command of the 4th Infantry Regiment based in Monte Caseros.

In a telephone conversation that TELAM had with Curuzu Cuatia, it was also indicated that at 1800 [2100 GMT] there will be a parade of the 4th Regiment in order to take over the installations and officially report the surrender of former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico.

Spokesman Confirms Rico Arrest

PY182120 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2059 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jan (TELAM)—Presidential Spokesman Ignacio Lopes officially confirmed this afternoon that former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico has been detained and is being kept at the disposal of General Juan Ramon Mabragana. The rebel former officer is being held at the 4th Regiment based in Monte Caseros.

Lopez, who made this announcement from the Government House, said that the 4th regiment is classifying the prisoners.

Lopez also said that the government is still not in a position to report on the number of casualties.

Defense Minister on Arrest

PY182144 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2140 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jan (NA)—The defense minister has officially announced that the 4th Infantry Regiment, based in Monte Caseros, has surrendered, and that former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico; Lieutenant Colonel Alvarez Igarzabal, the garrison's commander; and Major Jandula, the garrison's deputy commander, are currently under arrest.

Tucuman Revolt Over

PY182220 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2200 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jan (TELAM)—Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena has reported that the situation in Tucuman is now totally normal and that the units are now obeying the Army chain of command, at the same time [words indistinct]

In an improvised news conference at the Defense Ministry, Jaunarena stressed that calm exists in all military units throughout the country, and he added that those who have been arrested will be placed at the disposal of the courts.

Rico Detention Place Secret

PY182249 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2230 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jan (NA)—A high-ranking Army source has stated that former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico will be lodged in one of the country's military units, but his place of detention "will be kept secret."

The source did not want to mention the name of the unit "due to security reasons."

The source answered "I do not know," when he was asked if the "secret" location of detention could be in the Federal Capital of Greater Buenos Aires.

Rico is being transferred to that "secret" location in a military plane that departed a few minutes ago from the Curuzu Cuatia Aero Club, Corrientes Province.

Rico Reportedly at Campo de Mayo

PY190054 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0036 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jan (DYN)—Former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico is reportedly being held under arrest at a unit based within the Campo de Mayo garrison, where he arrived from Curuzu Cuatia on board a military airplane that landed inside the garrison, according to military sources.

It is not known in which unit Rico has been lodged. Rico had been held under arrest from Easter Week until 30 December 1987 at the General Lemos Combat Support Services School, which is based in Campo de Mayo and which is close to the General Lonardi Infantry School, where a revolt occurred during Easter weekend.

Army Communique on Operations

PY190008 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2350 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jan (TELAM)—The headquarters of the Army General Staff at 2025 [2325 GMT] released the following communique:

The Army General Staff informs public opinion:

1. Former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico at 1700 on 18 January surrendered at the command post of the 3d Infantry Brigade. He surrendered unconditionally with all rebel personnel.

Rico is currently under arrest and he is expected to be transferred to a place to be determined by the Army chief of staff.

2. The number of people under arrest is still being determined.

3. It is noted that only a very small number of men have been wounded.

4. Control operations, the removal of explosives, the collection [words indistinct], and the normalization of activities are being carried out.

The necessary measures have also been adopted to prevent harm to the civilian population.

5. It must be pointed out that military personnel under the orders of II Corps commander [words indistinct] with a profound conviction that highlighted their solid cohesion, discipline, and efficiency.

[Signed] Colonel Miguel Enrique Chichizola, director of institutional affairs

[Dated] Buenos Aires, 18 January

Alfonsin Discusses Case

PY190136 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0046 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jan (TELAM)—Referring to the surrender of a revolt led by former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico, a surrender accomplished by the Argentine Army, President Raul Alfonsin tonight said that we, Argentines, have demonstrated that the democratic system has already been firmly established in our country. He said that we have again set the record straight.

The head of state expressed his gratitude to the people, to the political parties, to the provincial governments, and to the Armed Forces, which remained loyal to the democratic system. Alfonsin emphasized: I personally feel obliged to all of you.

In a message delivered at Government House shortly before leaving for the Olivos presidential residence, Alfonsin said that after this regrettable episode, it has been demonstrated that the entire nation is much stronger than a minority that considers itself enlightened and that wants us to tread a path that we, Argentines, will never tread.

The following is the chief executive's full message:

I think all of us can be satisfied. We have overcome a serious problem, which, of course, had negative consequences known to all of us. However, I especially invite you, Argentines, to think of all the positive points that have been demonstrated.

I personally feel more obliged to all of you, to the entire Argentine nation which has demonstrated a typical behavior, proper of its maturity. I am grateful to the political parties, which have supported the institutions. I am grateful to the different provincial governments, which have been observing the Constitution and have been at the service of peace in Argentina.

I am grateful to the Argentine Armed Forces, our Armed Forces, which have experienced a hard and difficult time, occasionally, perhaps, feeling distressed because of the need to take steps against comrades-in-arms. However, our Armed Forces repeatedly supported, through different spokesmen, the republican system, the democratic system, the Constitution, and the respect for the established power.

I think that this is positive. We have demonstrated that all of us together are able to ensure democracy for the future of all Argentines.

We have demonstrated that democracy is consolidated in the country and we have put our house in order again.

There certainly is another aspect: We have found ourselves more united, all of us Argentines, as a result of the recent actions from the different political parties, the different proposals for coexistence, for a consensus, for an agreement, for the definition of a common factor which helps people become a nation.

And I also include the Armed Forces. I think this episode has made possible a reorganization within the Argentine Army that will allow us to work more closely together to define the country we are seeking and which we all want.

These were the positive things I wished to tell all Argentines. This is what I think really matters. After this regrettable incident, it is evident that the nation, as a whole, is much stronger than some minorities which believe they hold the truth and which wish to lead us down a path we Argentines reject.

I told you I feel indebted to all of you. I also feel I owe much to Argentine journalists who have worked hard to convey the news accurately, while also serving seriously the national institutions. They have worked in the service of democracy, so I want to thank all journalists.

Very well, since we spoke about work, I think it is time to continue working. Those who are lucky enough to be on vacations, continue with your vacations. Like I said before, the house is in order. Thank you.

Defense Minister on Situation

PY190200 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0024 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jan (NA)—Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena tonight asserted that "the situation in the country is absolutely normal," and pointed out that "all units are obeying the Army chain of comand."

The minister said that only three people have been injured, and that as a result of the upheavals in Corrientes, San Luis, and other parts of the country, "several people have been arrested."

Jaunarena, Defense Ministry Secretary Raul Alconada Sempe, and others held an "informal" news conference this afternoon.

Referring specifically to former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico, Jaunarena said: "He has already been detained along with the other officers who were supporting him. According to available data, all I can say so far is that during [words indistinct] 18 Army and Air Force officers were detained."

In this respect, Jaunarena said that "the small group of civilians" that accompanied [words indistinct] also said that the [words indistinct] based in Tucuman Province are also "obeying the Army chain of command." He added that there "have been no clashes in that province."

Asked about those injured, Jaunarena only said that an officer and two noncommissioned officers of the forces commanded by General Juan Ramon Mabragana were injured.

When the reporters insisted that the number of injured people seemed small compared to the number of forces deployed, Minister Jaunarena, who had been in good humor up to that point, answered angrily: "These are the only figures we have so far."

Regarding what will happen to Aldo Rico and the other rebellious officers, Jaunarena said: "We will try them in accordance with the law, as we have always done."

He pointed out: "I do not like to comment on sentences and punishments; that is up to the judges. In this specific case, it is up to the military courts that have their own laws."

He added: "Fortunately, in a state of law these decisions are made by the judges." He also said that events such as this crisis show that the country "needs a domestic security law, which we will start to discuss, because we count on the great maturity of our people."

Regarding the role of the Armed Forces, Jaunarena said: "The members of the Armed Forces showed they are ready to support the constitutional authorities," and to reject dissimilar positions among them.

Later, Jaunarena denied that "there are two armies," and that the opinions of the younger officers are different from the opinions of superior officers. He added: "Most members of the Armed Forces want to live in democracy."

He said he does not believe that the incidents which occurred in the last few days can be compared to those of the early 1960's ("blues and reds"). Jaunarena said: "As soon as those resonsible for the incidents of this last, long weekend are submitted to the courts, the so-called 'Holy Week' crisis will be over."

Army Chief of Staff Returns From Israel Trip

PY121814 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Report from Government House by Marta Lopez]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] President Alfonsin will probably receive today Defense Minister Jose Horacio Jaunarena, who has met with Army Chief of Staff Dante Caridi, who returned from Israel yesterday. Jaunarena will reportedly give a detailed report to President Alfonsin on the situation at the Defense Ministry.